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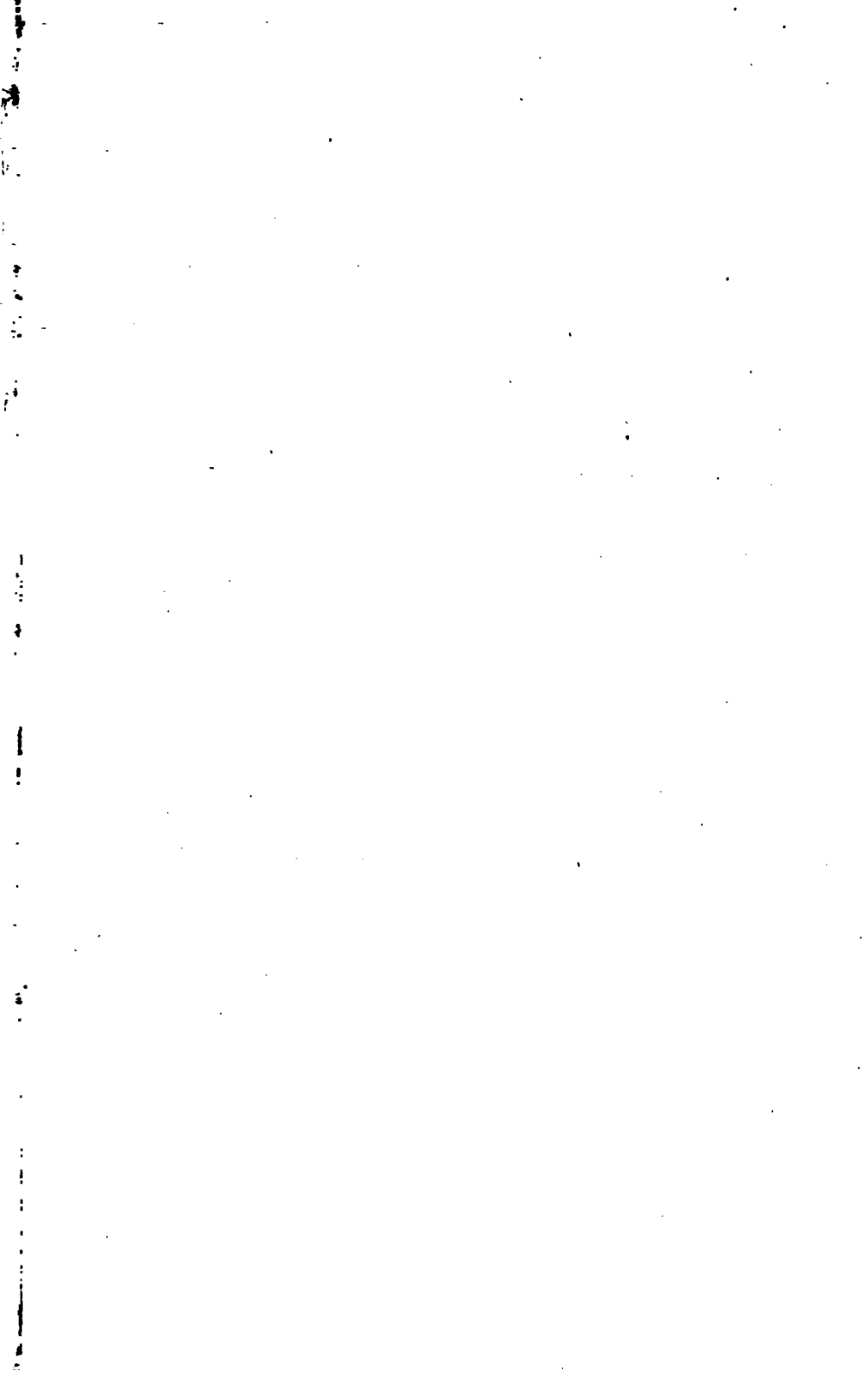
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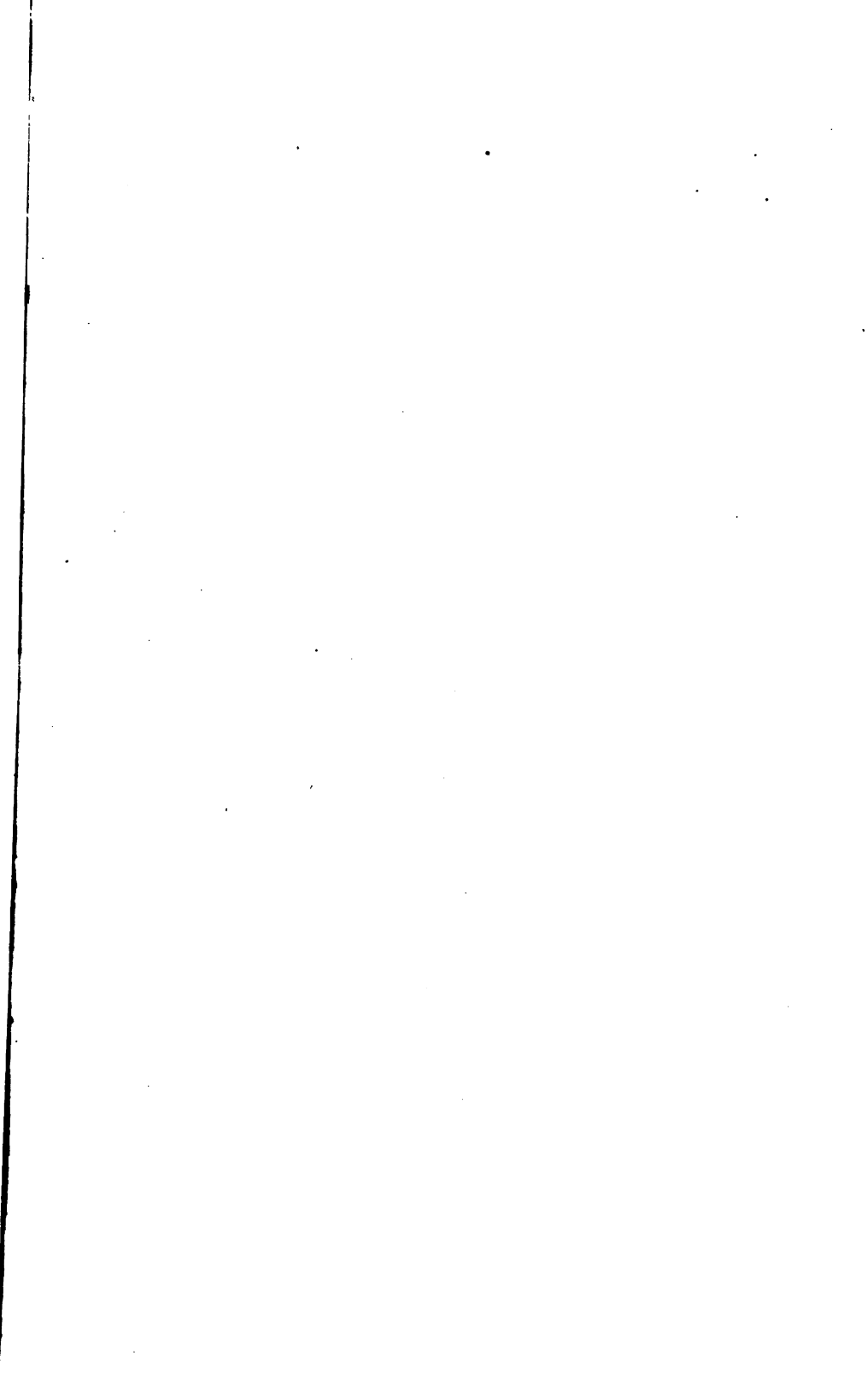
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THE
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DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY, CHEMISTRY, &c.



JOSEPH BATES, M. D., and H. A. TILDEN.

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Communications.

CITRULLUS COLOCYNTHIS.

(*Colocynth.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

This plant belongs to the Natural Order Cucurbitaceæ of Jussieu.

In the sexual system, Colocynth belongs to class *Monœcia* and order *Monadelphica*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Male Flowers.—Calyx perianth one-leaved, bell-shaped, 5-toothed. Corolla: five parted, growing to the calyx, campanulate, divisions ovate, veiny-wrinkled, petals small, scarcely adherent to each other. Stamens 3, short, two of which have doubly-bent anthers, bifid at the tip.

Receptacle: three cornered, truncate, in the centre of the flower.

Female flowers, on the same plant with the males. Calyx globose, and somewhat hispid. Corol, same as male. Ovary inferior smooth; style short; stigmas 3.

Fruit globose, smooth, about the size of an orange.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Annual, herbaceous. Flowers of a dull yellowish color; fruit when matured, yellow. Leaves multifid.

HABITAT.—Japan, Coromandel, Cape of Good Hope, Syria, Nubia, Egypt, Turkey, and the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago. It is cultivated in France and Spain.

PROPERTIES.—Powerful drastic cathartic.

HISTORY.—This agent was known to the ancient authors in our profession. Hippocrates is quoted as having directed a tampon, covered with colocynth, to be introduced into the os uteri for the purpose of bringing on labor artificially in cases in which abortion takes place regularly at the same period of pregnancy. Dioscorides is quoted by Dr. Stillé, as alluding to the intense bitterness of the fruit; also of its cathartic properties, which he describes as so powerful as sometimes to produce bloody stools, besides thoroughly cleansing the bowels. He mentions the use of it described by Hippocrates, and recommends a suppository of it as a purgative, and also states that its fresh juice is useful in sciatica when rubbed upon the painful part. Galen recognized the fact that in spite of its bitterness, it has none of the properties of bitter medicines, but is an active cathartic.

Rhazes and other Arabian writers, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, state that it purges mucus and bile, is useful in paralysis, spasmodic diseases, headaches and other affections, including insanity. It has been used with other ingredients in a hair-dye, and as a remedy for alopecia and scaly eruptions of the scalp. It was, at one time, held in high repute as a cure for scorpions' bites, and a decoction of it in oil, is said to have been used by dropping into the ear to relieve tinnitus. Its acrimony was said to be corrected by associating with it Gum Arabic or Tragacanth, and the addition of aromatics, salines, and aloes, was advised to render its purgative action more gentle. Its poisonous effects are described by Matthioli as identical with those of scammony and other drastics, viz., bloody stools, with violent pain and inflammation of the bowels. (Stillé). Green, an English writer mentions 13 species of this Genus. He remarks that the *Cucumis Prophetarum*, (Globe Cucumber) native of Arabia, and the Levant derives its specific name from an allusion to Jonah's gourd. The operation of colocynth, is said not to be limited to the acceleration of the vermicular movements, but that it is extended to the secreting and exhaling vessels of the alimentary canal, whose functions it pro-

notes. It influences the other abdominal organs; and after the absorption of its bitter acrid principle, it not unfrequently proves diuretic. Pereira remarks:—"Besides being useful as an ordinary purgative, colocynth is adapted for acting as a stimulus to the abdominal and pelvic vessels and nerves in cases of torpor or inactivity, and on the principle of counter-irritant for determining from other organs." The active principle of colocynth, colocynthin, is said to act as an efficient cathartic in doses of from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Constipation and Visceral Obstructions.—Dr. Waring remarks:—"In constipation and visceral obstructions, the compound extract (gr. v-x), in combination with calomel (gr. ij-iv), is one of the most commonly used cathartics; and for certainty of operation, it is one of the best formulæ which can be employed. It may be repeated every six or eight hours till it operates. It is inadmissible in all inflammatory states of the intestinal canal." *Brit. Med. Jour.*, observes:—"In habitual constipation, ten, or even five minims in a little water, an hour before breakfast, generally suffice to insure a full evacuation, without much inconvenience, or the dose requiring to be increased." The author here has allusion to the tincture of the article, as used in Prussia. Colocynth, or its extract is not usually administered alone, but associated with hyoscyamus or some other agent, to mitigate the severity of its operation. Richter is quoted as recommending the pulp of this agent as a stimulant to the digestive organs, in doses of from one-eighth to one-half of a grain, and gradually increasing the quantity until the urine becomes more copious, or some looseness of the bowels supervenes. Dr. Stillé remarks that the compound extract is an excellent purgative in cases of constipation attended with torpor of the liver, and whenever copious evacuations from the bowels are desired.

Dr. King says, colocynth may be used in moderate doses, in all diseases where cathartics is indicated.

Pereira remarks:—"As an ordinary purgative for keeping the bowels regular, the compound extract of colocynth is in common use both among the public and medical men. It operates mildly, certainly and effectually.

In Alvine Obstructions.—In some cases of obstinate constipation,

with sickness and other symptoms of an extremely irritable stomach, the compound extract of colocynth occasionally proves invaluable. Occupying but a small bulk, it is retained on the stomach, and succeeds in producing alvine evacuations, where the ordinary liquid purgatives fail in consequence of being vomited up. Doubtful cases of intusseption and hernia, even with stercoraceous vomiting, I have seen completely relieved by it. More than once have I known an operation averted by its use, in those who in addition to the above symptoms, had old herniæ, which led the surgeon to suspect strangulation. A slight degree of abdominal tenderness is not to be considered as absolutely prohibiting its use. Occasionally the extract is rubbed down with soap and water, and administered as an enema."

R. W. Crichton, M. D., says:—"The value of colocynth in cases of habitual constipation, and likewise as a revulsant in head affections, has been long understood; but seems to have been not quite sufficiently appreciated in this country, from the drug having generally been used in the crude state."—(*Brit. Med. Jour.*)

Dr. Barlow speaks in high terms of the following pills, which, for half a century, have been successfully employed in the Bath Hospital:

R	Ext. Coloc. Co.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	gr. iv.
	Calomel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	gr. j.

M. ft. pil. omni nocte sumend."—(*Cyc. Pract. Med.*, vii. p. 331).

The author has used the solid extract of colocynth for many years in this malady and with very good success.

Dyspepsia.—Dr. Waring quotes Dr. Barlow, as speaking in very high terms of the use of extract of colocynth and calomel, in some forms of dyspepsia, and in gastrodynia.

Cerebral Affections.—Pereira remarks, that in apoplexy, or a tendency thereto, in paralysis, insanity, violent headache, &c., colocynth is sometime employed with good effect, on the principle of revulsion and counter-irritation. Waring, also, observes that colocynth is particularly useful as a powerful cathartic and derivative in apoplexy, mania, and other cerebral affections. It should be administered for such purposes, in full doses, and repeated until it operates freely.

Dropsical Affections.—English practitioners have administered this agent as a hydragogue cathartic in dropsical affections and with good results. Waring alludes to its use for this purpose, and says, that formerly, it was much employed.

Amenorrhœa and Chlorosis.—Pereira says that in some cases of obstructed menstruation, benefit is obtained by the use of drastic purgatives, like colocynth, which acts on the rectum, and, by contiguous sympathy, affect the uterus. Dr. Paine writes that he has used this remedy in combination with gelsemin, in dysmenorrhœa, with most happy effect.

PREPARATIONS.

Solid Extract of Colocynth,	Dose, 5 to 15 grains.
“ “ “ “ Comp.	“ 2 to 30 “
Pills of Colocynth Compound,	3 grs. each.
“ “ “ “ & Hyoscyamus	3 “ “
“ “ “ “ Blue Pill,	3 “ “
“ “ “ “ Calomel,	3 “ “

PILLS OF COLOCYNTH AND BLUE MASS.

Blue Mass,	Five Grains.
Solid Extract Colocynth Compound	Five Grains.
Oil of Caraway,	Two Drops.
Make into two pills. These make an active cathartic.	

PILLS OF COLOCYNTH AND CALOMEL.

Solid Ext. Colocynth Comp.,	Forty-eight Grains.
Mild Chloride of Mercury,	One Scruple.
Divide into twenty pills. Two or three will generally act as a cathartic.	

FOTHERGILL'S PILLS.

Solid Ext. Coloc. Comp.	One and one-half Drams.
Oxide of Antimony,	Half a Dram.
Mix and divide into thirty pills.	

PILLS OF COMPOUND EXTRACT OF COLOCYNTH.

Solid Ext. Colocynth Compound,	One Scruple.
“ “ Jalap,	One and a half Scruples.
Powder of Scammony Compound,	Ten Grains.
Mild Chloride of Mercury,	Ten Grains.

Tartrate of Antimony and Potash,	One Grain.
Soap, - - - - -	Five Grains.
Oil Cinnamon, - - - - -	Four Drops.

Mix, and divide into fifteen pills. Dose—One, two, or three, to be taken at bed-time.

COLOCYNTH AND HYOSCYAMUS.

Colocynth Compound, - - -	Two Parts.
Extract Hyoscyamus, - - -	One Part.

Divide into three grain pills. Colocynth is deprived of its griping properties by combination with Extract of Hyoscyamus.

SPIRÆA TOMENTOSA.

(*Hard-hack.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Rosaceæ.

In the Linnean artificial classification, this genus will be found in Class *Icosandria*, Order, *Pentagynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 5-cleft, inferior, spreading; corol 5-pettalled; petals equal, roundish; stamens numerous, exsert; carpels 3 to 12, 2-valved within, each 1 to 3 seeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Woody, from two to four feet in hight, flowers small, numerous, red or purple, blooming in July; leaves lanceolate, unequally serrate, downy beneath; racemes in a crowded sub-panicled spike.

HABITAT.—North America.

POPULAR NAMES.—In different localities this plant is known by the names of steeple bush, purple hard-hack, meadow-sweet, and white-leaf.

PART USED.—The whole plant.

HISTORY.—This plant is said to have been known to the Indians as an astringent before it was adopted into regular practice. (Lee). The late Prof. Tully used it successfully as an astringent. Griffith speaks of the solid extract as equal to catechu. It imparts its medicinal properties to water.

It is less apt to disagree with the stomach than most other astringents.

The leaves are spoken of as having a bitter astringent taste, and a smell like black tea; and to contain tannin, gallic acid, bitter extractive, gum, &c. There are no less than seventeen species of this genus found in North America. English Botanists describe twenty-five species, some of which are natives of Siberia, Japan, and various parts of Europe. The *Spiræa Crenata*, Pallas says is the only plant of its genus that is indigenous of Russia, and that the leaves are so astringent as to tan leather. The *S. Crenata* is also a native of the United States.

The *S. Filipendula* (says an English author), operates by urine, and brings away gravel. The same author remarks, that a tincture of it, made in wine, is good in epileptic fits and other disorders; and given in powder, it has been found serviceable in the whites, and also in the bloody flux. The *S. Ulmaria* is said to promote sweating, and has a small degree of astringency. Our author quotes it as an excellent medicine in fevers attended with purgings. He remarks that the flowers, infused in any kind of liquors, impart a pleasant taste thereto, and mixed with mead, give it the flavor of the Greek wines. In domestic practice, the *S. Tomentosa* has been used somewhat extensively in mild cases of dysentery and diarrhoea.

PROPERTIES.—Astringent and tonic.

REMARKS.—“Indigenous materia medica (says Dr. Tully) is comparatively a new region. Most of it has been traversed only in a very casual and superficial manner. It is to this that our attention ought to be particularly turned.”

Medicines of moderate powers are frequently neglected by a certain class of physicians, and more powerful agents are called into requisition. By far the greater share of patients for whom a physician is called, is afflicted with mild diseases, and requires corresponding remedies. Medicines of moderate powers are no less essential in the treatment of mild forms of disease, than more heroic agents in the most formidable maladies. If the latter catalogue of diseases fails to respond to mild measures, it is equally true that the former is often greatly aggravated by what is termed heroic

treatment. Both classes of remedies, have their appropriate spheres in the treatment of the multiplied ills that checker the various stages of human life. He who fails to cultivate an acquaintance with simple, or mild remedies, is denying his patients, many times, that which nature intended for their cure.

Oribasius observes:—"The knowledge of all simple medicines and of their powers is so necessary that without it no one can properly cure diseases."

THERAPEUTICAL EMPLOYMENT.

Cholera Infantum.—F. P. Porcher, M. D., in his work on the Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests, makes very favorable allusion to the employment of spiræa tomentosa in cholera infantum. He says it is a valuable tonic and astringent in this malady, and in other complaints where medicines of this class are indicated. He quotes Wood as saying that it is peculiarly adapted, by its tonic powers, to cases of debility, as it does not disagree with the stomach; but it should be avoided during the existence of inflammatory action or febrile excitement. Cases in which there is much pain should be treated with small doses of some of the preparations of opium in conjunction with the free use of this remedy.

Dr. J. King speaks very favorably of the employment of this agent in the treatment of this annoying malady. Many cases will respond favorably to the employment of spiræa and chlorate of potassa.

A favorite prescription with some physicians, is the Geranium Maculatum and S. Tomentosa in combination with two or three drops of laudanum. The Rubus Villosus and the S. Tomentosa, given in equal parts is a very good prescription in this malady. Nitrate of silver in doses of one-fourth of a gr. dissolved in half a tablespoonful of mucilage, alternated with an infusion of S. Tomentosa, will have a favorable effect in many cases. Should the discharges be accompanied with much pain, two or three drops of laudanum, occasionally added to the infusion, will be of great service.

Diarrhœa.—According to Dr. Mead's thesis, S. Tomentosa is administered with success in the secondary stages of this malady,

having virtues attributed to it analogous to quinine. * Dr. Porcher observes: "Great use might be made of this plant, particularly by practitioners residing in the country. In a communication from Dr. S. B. Mead, of Illinois, he informs me that he has employed it in obstinate diarrhoeas in place of opium."

When the diarrhoea is complicated with acidity of the stomach, the carbonate of soda, alternated with this agent, will be productive of much benefit.

Dr. Lee alludes to the use of this remedy by the late Dr. Tully, as an astringent in this complaint. As a tonic in cases of debility, Dr. L. considers the spirea one of our best indigenous articles.

It may be administered in conjunction with many of the ordinary remedies usually given in the treatment of diarrhoea. Many cases will respond favorably to a free use of this remedy. The fluid extract is the most eligible form in which it can be used, but when this cannot conveniently be obtained, the infusion may be resorted to.

Dysentery.—Dr. Porcher, in his work, p. 175, alludes to the use of this remedy in the second stages of dysentery. It is spoken of as a very valuable accession to the materia medica, not disagreeing with the stomach; consequently it can be administered to advantage, in cases where most remedies are rejected. Many use it in this malady where astringents are indicated. It may be administered in conjunction with opium, and in cases requiring the use of tonics, with quinine. It is a valuable tonic in most cases, where this class of remedies is brought in requisition.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract,	- - -	Dose, 4 to 20 Drops.
Pills,	- - -	2 Grains Each.

A CASE IN PRACTICE.

BY A. JOLLS, M. D., WEST NASSAU, N. Y.

Was called April 20, 1869, to visit D. B., aged 20, married, farmer. Temperament nervo-bilious, of good constitution. A few

* Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests, p. 175.

days previous to being called, he had laid on the damp ground and caught cold, and at the time I first visited him, he was laboring under acute rheumatism. The disease progressed favorably under the use of aconites, colchicum, opium, alcoholics and quinine, which were used as the case called for, and in about two weeks the joints were entirely liberated, perfect and easy motion was restored. On the disease leaving the joints, the abdominal muscles of the right side were attacked with great pain on motion, or touch; decubitus on the back; right knee drawn up so as to relax the abdominal muscles of that side; pulse 100; not much thirst; tongue slightly coated with yellowish fir; urine normal as to quantity; bowels readily moved with a small dose of oil or seidlitz powder. In about one week pain subsided, and the young man was around and about his usual business, but there was an inability to freely use the right leg in consequence of the pain produced in the right iliac region. About the last of July he called at my office and said he believed there was a tumor forming and requested an examination. In the erect position could see nor feel nothing abnormal; on lying on the back, found a small tumor in the right iliac region. Tumor continued to enlarge, with considerable pain on lying down nights, so as to break him of his usual rest, and render his nights sleepless, for the relief of which he took opiates. On a second examination about six months after, fluctuation was detected with crepitation or a feeling as if air was diffused through the cellular tissue over a limited space.

Was called Dec. 1st; found him laboring under chills, after which followed headache, pain in small of the back; pulse 120; tongue dry, brown on the edges with black streak in the middle; great thirst; bowels constipated; increased pain in the right iliac region, with increase of tumor and thinning of the walls or tissues, with indications of pointing about $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches from the anterior superior spinous process of the ilium; was relieved by laxatives, diaphoretics and opiates with local applications of poultices, blisters, which were continued with iodine, at intervals, until January 28, 1870, when he was attacked with much the same symptoms as he had December 1st, 1869, but if anything more aggravated.

Treatment the same as at that time, pointing of abscess strongly marked, and on the night of the 30th, it burst, with a marked

alleviation of all the symptoms. On my next visit, the first discharge was a foreign body, resembling a lemon seed, covered with calcareous matter, after which pus mixed with fecal matter was discharged in large quantities, the odor of which was exceedingly unpleasant and towards the close of the discharge there was another foreign body similar to the first.

The young man up to the time of writing, enjoys good health, believes himself to be perfectly sound physically, so as to pursue his usual avocation.

BURNS AND SCALDS.

BY S. B. JUDKIN, M. D., CUBA, OHIO.

In a late Journal my attention was called to the treatment of burns and scalds, and "carron oil" was spoken of as superior to anything the writer had ever used, &c.

I have treated a good many cases of burns and scalds, and, to my entire satisfaction. I dissolve white lead in flax seed oil, to the consistency of milk, and apply over the entire burn or scald every five minutes. I have been in the habit of using a soft feather to apply the liniment. I have used this preparation a great many times in the fifteen years of my practice, and have never been disappointed; it gives relief the soonest and is more permanent in its effects than any preparation I am acquainted with.

I think that any one testing it will be satisfied. It should be applied often, and a full dose of an opiate will be advantageous if the burn is deep.

ON THE USE OF ERGOT.

By E. MICHENER, M. D., Toughkenamon, Chester Co., Pa.

Having made ergot the subject of an experimental thesis, more than fifty years ago, and having been conversant with its use since that time, I was much pleased with the perusal of Dr. BATTSON's communication in the last *Reporter*. My experience confirms much of what he has written; but the deductions drawn from the limited experience and

observation of one person, in relation to therapeutic effects upon disease under every varying circumstance, must sometimes require, and should always be subject to, confirmation or correction by the observation of others.

When we consider how few medical men record their observations, and how small a portion of those records are ever published, we must be sensible that there is a vast amount of unavailable knowledge thus locked up in the note books and memories of the profession. Hence, we may expect, and often find, ideas brought up as original, and claiming priority, which had long been familiar to us.

Dr. Battison so claims the use of "*ergot for the arrest of hemorrhage before delivery*," but I find in my MS. thesis.

Placenta Prævia.—"22d of third mo., 1817.—I was desired, by the midwife in attendance, to visit Hannah Phillips, in St. Mary's alley, near Hurst street, with all possible dispatch. She was in the sixth month of her pregnancy, and for the last three weeks had suffered frequent attacks of hemorrhage. Three hours previous to my visit the flooding became profuse. When I arrived everything was confusion and dismay; the chamber receptacle almost full, the bed deluged with blood, and the patient obviously in a state of extreme exhaustion. The os uteri was so little dilated as just to admit the tip of the finger far enough to discover the overlying placenta, and happily to allow it to plug the os and prevent the further effusion of blood. Retaining the finger in its position, I immediately gave her ten grains of ergot, which was repeated in ten minutes. In twenty minutes from its administration the uterus began to act so strongly that I removed the finger without further loss of blood. As the os dilated, I perforated the membranes through the placenta. In one hour from the commencement of uterine action the entire contents of the womb were expelled. The woman gradually and completely recovered."

After such an experience it must not be presumed that I have ever since been a stranger to the ante-partem use of ergot.

Dr. Battison says: "Under no circumstances does ergot produce contractions where they had not previously existed."

This is a sweeping assertion, and may need confirmation. See the case below.

Again, it is not very clear when the contractions are preceded, and caused by the escape of blood into the cavity of the uterus, how the *hemostatic properties* of ergot can remove the cause—the blood effused into the cavity of the organ.

The doctor is "surprised to hear Cazeaux assert—that the cessation of the flooding is always a necessary consequence of the uterine contractions." Yet he directly, and I think suggestively asks—"may it not be explained by the *persistent* contraction which the ergot is said to produce, thus preventing, by a *continued* compression, the refilling of the uterine vessels?" This is precisely Cazeaux' explanation; only he omitted to mention, what everybody was presumed to know, that the contractions produced by ergot are more persistent than the natural parturient pains. He might well inquire—

"The mighty difference who can see,

Twixt tweedle-dum and tweedle-dee."

I will again recur to my MS. Thesis.

Morbid Gestation.—"4th of 8th mo., 1817. About a month ago Phœbe Shorter, living in Green's Court, and in her eighth month of pregnancy, received a severe contusion of the abdomen, which threatened to induce premature labor, but soon passed off. She was subsequently attacked with great soreness, pain, and sense of weight in the abdomen; the movements of the child gave her excruciating pain; she was feverish and restless, and her mind sunk into despondency. After various ineffectual treatment I ordered her a pill containing assafoet., grs. ij., ergot gr. j., every four hours. Under this treatment her symptoms speedily subsided. But on the morning of the second day she had slight pains, like those of labor. The pills were suspended. In the evening, the pains having left her, they were resumed.

On the following morning she again felt some pains, and the pills were discontinued. She remained well for six days, and was then safely delivered of a healthy child."

Appended to this case I find the following :

"NOTE.—Experience alone can determine whether the ergot can be employed to give tone to the debilitated or irritable uterus, which threatens to expel its precious charge. And if it be found useful in those cases, how far it may be used with safety. But judging so far as we may from perhaps the only case in which it has yet been tried, the inference seems to be that when properly used it may serve as a tonic to the gravid uterus. But much caution will be needed to prevent undue excitement, which would lead to contraction and consequent expulsion of its burden. The question is an interesting one, and deserves the attention of future inquirers."

"Will avert the danger, no matter how profuse the flooding, or how long continued." This seems to be rather strong language, even with all its provisos.

"No drug can ever induce the dilatation of the os uteri."

I have no objections to the doctor's physiological law for healthy action; but we too often find the uterus in open rebellion to it. Nor do I accept his illustration of the action of an involuntary muscle, by that of the voluntary one; the *sphincter uteri*, by the *sphincter vesicæ*.

I have elsewhere attempted to show that when the organ is greatly excited, some of the uterine fibers are often in an atonic state, while others are spasmodically affected; and that by restoring vigor to the one, we can relieve, in a measure, the hyperæmia of the other. When the fundus or body is inactive, and the os spasmodically closed, I have abundant experience to satisfy me that ergot like opium, will, indirectly, at least, dilate the os. Indeed, the doctor himself endorses this view when he says:—"The fundus uteri, when stimulated to powerful contractions, gradually exhausts the tension of the muscular bands of the uterine sphincter, and effects a premature dilatation." For he certainly does not doubt his own assertions, that the ergot will "stimulate the fundus uteri to powerful contractions." What becomes, then, of his *stultifying contradiction*?

In relation to the tampon, the doctor remarks:

"The irritating presence of the tampon itself within its enclosure."
(i. e., of the uterus.)

"The tampon being directly applied to the bleeding orifices."

"The placenta is known to cover a space of six or seven inches, and I should like to be informed whether the tampon can be applied to this whole surface at once."

I have not been an earnest advocate for the tampon, as I have always understood "the plugs of Cazeaux, Dewees, Meigs, Ramsbotham, and others," to mean a mere *filling of the vagina* to promote coagulation. But when "indiscreetly and injudiciously used" within the uterus—to the bleeding orifices—"to cover a space of six or seven inches," etc., I can endorse the hearty condemnation of Dr. Battson—"that it becomes the most pernicious contrivance ever inflicted upon the parturient woman." But it must be remembered we are now considering the *imaginary* plug of his own fancy, and not the *practical* one proposed by the meritorious writers he has named.

Disclaiming all invidious feeling toward the writer, I have only sought to round off a few corners, to smooth a few rough spots in his suggestive paper, and so facilitate the study of the subject.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, August, 1870.

GENERAL INDICATIONS • FOR THE USE OF TONICS.

BY CHARLES CARTER, M. D., RESIDENT PHYSICIAN OF THE NORTHERN
DISPENSARY, OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.

The term Tonic is used to designate those agents which have the power of imparting strength and energy to the system. Everything, from a juicy steak to a salt bath, which contributes to the support, sustenance, and *strength* of the body, may be considered in an enlarged sense a tonic.

In the *materia medica*, however, the term is of more limited application, and we use it only in reference to certain mineral and vegetable substances.

These may be divided into three groups: First—Those articles the primary manifestations of whose operation are in the organs of digestion, consisting in a direct increase of appetite and digestive power of which gentian affords an example.

Second—Those articles the primary manifestation of whose operation is the vascular system, consisting in a direct increase of vital energy and strength of action, of which cinchona is considered an example; and,

Thirdly—Those articles the first effect of whose operation are on the nervous system, consisting of a direct increase of energy with which the nervous function is discharged, of which nux vomica is an example.

We may therefore say in general terms, that the first group are more appropriate in deficiency of appetite and digestive power and consequent exhaustion of the system at large depending upon the want of proper nutrition—and that the second and third groups are more appropriate in cases where the vascular or nervous system are primarily effected. But it must be observed that by protracted and continuous use each of these groups affect secondarily by invigoration, the system at large.

Many writers on the *materia medica* do not make the divisions of tonics precisely similar to that here given; and there are, I believe, *practitioners* who do not practically recognize any division, because they employ only one article as a tonic, viz: Old Bourbon Whiskey.

I desire now to allude as briefly as possible to some of the indications for the use of tonics of the first group.

First—They are useful in deficiency of appetite, and consequent deficiency of proper nutrition, as before observed. We find this sus-

pension of appetite in both acute and chronic diseases. In the first stage of an acute disease it may be a very wise provision of nature; but the symptom must not be allowed to continue as it is very apt to do. Unpleasant if not fatal results might take place if the alimentary supplies be allowed too long to fall below the ordinary wants of the system through want of appetite. In chronic affections there is almost always loss of appetite attended with emaciation. By the use of this group of tonics the appetite and digestion may be maintained, the introduction of nutritious food kept up, and the vital forces therefore sustained.

Secondly—It is in that frequent and distressing malady, Dyspepsia, that we find this group most efficient. The article belonging to this group with which I have had most experience is gentian. I have administered it in substance, its various preparations, and also in combination with various other medicines, with the happiest results.

For deficiency of appetite; for intestinal indigestion of children associated with large abdomen, and in dyspepsia, it has not disappointed me as an efficient remedy.

I do not intend entering into a full account of the causes and symptoms of the diseases here mentioned. In the extensive class of cases of the latter disease (Dyspepsia) met with in *Dispensary* practice, having similar general symptoms, and with evidence that the whole alimentary tract is in an abnormal state, I have found either of the following combinations of Gentian very serviceable :

R̄ Gentian Root, (broken,) six drachms.

Wild Cherry Bark, one-half ounce.

Quassia, two drachms.

Infuse in two pints of hot water. Dose, a wineglassful before meals.

R̄ Sub-Nit. Bismuth, one drachm.

Calc Carb. Precip., three drachms.

F'l'd Ext. Gentian, one-half ounce.

Aqua Cinnamon, three and one-half ounces.

Sig.—A teaspoonful before and after each meal.

This latter is not a very elegant mixture, for the powders which must be given suspended in the liquid, precipitate. The mixture therefore, requires to be well shaken before using. It is, however, very effective. I have recently administered it in a very severe and protracted case of dyspepsia, with complete relief of all the symptoms. The patient was under its use for about eight weeks. When he applied to me he

was affected in the following manner: Loss of appetite, severe and frequent attacks of colic, diarrhoea, want of sleep, great emaciation, cough, want of ambition, and a confused and disturbed state of the mind. The emaciation was so marked that I was led to suspect phthisis, but a careful examination of the chest did not reveal any evidence. The patient informed me that for the two weeks preceding the last time I saw him, he had gained in weight seven pounds.—*The Indiana Journal of Medicine*, June, 1870.

SCORBUTIC DYSENTERY.

By J. E. THORNBURGH, M. D., Lynnvile, Indiana.

Isaac L., aged nineteen years, American, was attacked July, 1869, with acute dysentery, which terminated finally in chronic dysentery. Previous to this attack, his habits had not been regular. He was intemperate, and drank great quantities of inferior whisky. He used a great amount of tobacco.

Saccharine articles were his principal diet. His digestion had not been good for several years, and he had had numerous attacks of acute dyspepsia. Several physicians had treated him for the chronic dysentery, all unsuccessfully. He came under my observation in March, 1870. He was extremely emaciated, with a marked sallowness of skin and slight œdema of lower extremities. His gums were in a terrible condition, bleeding profusely almost every day, very spongy, and teeth loose. The breath was very fetid. Ecchymoses numerous on lower extremities, chiefly in the form of petechiæ. The urine was very highly colored, having the appearance of containing blood. On examination none was found, but there was great abundance of the urates.

The discharges from the bowels were peculiarly offensive, and contained an abundance of mucous, and occasionally a small quantity of blood. Ulcerations extended to the extreme outer edge of the anus, causing severe pain on defecation.

Physical examination elicited slight tenderness over the greater part of the abdomen. The liver was very much atrophied and irregular.

March 12th, I placed him under the treatment usually employed in scorbutics, with wine. On the 14th of same month a profuse hemorrhage from the gums occurred, which astringents would not arrest. The Per Sulphate of Iron would arrest it for a few minutes only. I gave him some lemon juice to rinse his mouth with, and the hemorrhage

immediately stopped. No more severe hemorrhages occurred after that time. The scorbutic symptoms gradually disappeared, with the exception of pains in his lower extremities, which still persisted and were sometimes very severe.

The treatment for the chronic dysentery was not so successful. Sub-nitrate of Bismuth, combined with Nitrate of Silver, appeared to give more benefit than any other remedies. The discharges became less frequent and more natural under the above remedies, and the patient recovered gradually, till the 18th of May, when he became suddenly worse. The discharges became very frequent, and were mixed with blood and pus.

May 20th, the patient became comatose, and, on the morning of the 21st, died.

There were no positive symptoms of peritonitis.

Was the diagnosis of scorbutic dysentery correct? If so, what caused the scorbutic element in the disease? What caused the atrophy of the liver?—*Chicago Medical Journal*, October, 1870.

SCUTELLARIN.

BY JAMES COCHRAN, M. D., PHILADELPHIA.

Scutellarin is the concentrated preparation or the active principle of *Scutellaria lateriflora*, the vulgar name of which is scull-cap.

Scull-cap is an indigenous herb; it grows in marshy places or by the sides of ponds, and flowers during the months of July and August. The entire plant is officinal, and is one of those which should be gathered while in flower.

It is almost odorless, but possesses a bitterish taste; and its medicinal properties are extracted either by alcohol or boiling water.

It yields an essential and fatty oil; a bitter principle; an astringent principle; albumen; chloride of sodium, and numerous other salts.

This remedy, like too many others, has been neglected or undervalued, on account of two reasons at least,—one of these being that it has been commonly used by charlatans; the other is owing to the circumstances that it was formerly unduly lauded as a prophylactic and curative remedy in *hydrophobia*.

From the success that I have met with in its very frequent employment as a tonic, nervine and anti-spasmodic, I am not a little

surprised that it should be considered by some physicians to be almost inert. I have proved it to possess highly potent virtues, and could ill afford to dispense with it in almost any of the following class of cases, viz: in all fevers of a typhoid type, in intermittent fever, in neuralgia, chorea, epilepsy, as also in infantile cerebral affections.

Its worth in allaying excitability, and inducing sleep in that almost demoniac affection, *delirium tremens*, is no less certain, as also in all cases where the brain has been overtaxed, and the mind depressed or even slightly impaired through care or anxiety.

I have also proved it to be highly valuable in hysteria and other forms of nervous disease, to which females are peculiarly obnoxious; also, locally applied, in inflammation of the os uteri.

It possesses a valuable condition when contrasted with many other nervines, and that is, when its quieting effects have passed off it does not leave any irritable condition of the system.

If this valuable remedy were used freely in cases of typhoid fever, there would be less occasion for prescribing stimulants to the prejudicial extent which they are but too frequently resorted to. I cordially recommend it to the profession as possessing medicinal virtues of a high order, only accredited by those who have fairly and fully tested them.

Dose—From two to six grains.—*Eclectic Med. Jour.*, July and August, 1870.

Monthly Summary

—or—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

CONFLUENT SMALL-POX TREATED BY CARBOLIC ACID.—M. CHAUFFARD recently made the following communication to the *Société médicale des hôpitaux*:

"The treatment of which I have to speak consists in the use of the crystallized carbolic acid in large doses, a therapeutic means which has shown to me its efficacy in the secondary fever of severe confluent small-pox, that secondary period to which, as we know, the greatest number of those suffering from that disease succumb.

"To judge more manifestly of the efficacy of this remedy, I have applied it exclusively to five cases of decided severity, and to my very

great surprise I have seen the violent febrile phenomena and the accidents of suppuration abate rapidly in all these cases which seemed absolutely beyond the resources of art. A single one of these five patients succumbed, but only after he had regained appetite and been out of bed for a fortnight; he died suddenly, and the carefully performed autopsy did not reveal any thing but a certain degree of pulmonary congestion, an affection of which the patient had shown signs, however, previously.

"The idea of this medication had been suggested to me by the essay of M. Sanson on the happy effects of the use of carbolic acid in large doses in the treatment of mountain sickness (*mal de montagne*). The dose I employed was 1 gramme of cryst. carbolic acid in a draught of 125 to 150 grammes, and I have continued it for eight or ten days without any toxic accident, without any indication of gastric or intestinal intolerance, without any complaints even in regard to the taste of the draught. The medication is completed by external lotions with carbolized water of 1 or 2 per cent. The dose of carbolic acid employed internally should be lowered in the case of women and children according to the usual rules of posology.—*Abeille Medicale*.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, September, 1870.

USE OF SARSAPARILLA IN SYPHILIS.—DR. T. CLIFFORD ALBUTT states (*Practitioner*, May, 1870) that the anti-syphilitic effects of sarsaparilla depend upon the dose in which it is given, and that given in adequate doses it is one of our best remedies. It has been used in the Leeds Infirmary for at least a quarter of a century, in the form of decoction, and it is made there in large quantities. "Of this decoction, which differs only in unimportant details from the compound decoction of the Pharmacopœia, we administer from four to ten ounces three times a day, or prescribe some such quantity as a pint or a pint and a half to be taken at will during the twenty-four hours. This medication is expensive, no doubt, but that treatment is the cheapest which most quickly cures the patient. The cases in which sarsaparilla is most useful are cases in which the system is thoroughly infected with syphilis, during the tertiary and visceral modes of its appearances.

"In persons who are in a thoroughly cachectic state, who have lost flesh and strength, and who are suffering from sluggish ulcerations and indolent gummata, the sarsaparilla is really of very great value. I believe there is scarcely a practitioner among my readers who will not rejoice to hear of a remedy which will help him to cleanse and to re-

establish old syphilitic patients—patients whose constitutions have been undermined by want of nourishment or by excesses, who have gone through many courses of mercury, whose irritable mucous membranes will not bear any more iodide of potassium, and who are so sallow, so worn, so broken down, so eaten up by disease as to seem fit only for the grave. These persons clear up on such quantities of sarsaparilla as I have named, and it is here that the drug fills so important a gap. It need not, and it will not, supersede mercury and iodide of potassium in straightforward cases, but it has its place where these means have failed, or where they are on some grounds to be avoided. How far we are right in claiming this important place for sarsaparilla can only be known after an extended use of the drug according to our method by the profession at large.”—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, July, 1870.

TRICHINA.—By J. C. WALWORTH, M. D., New York. I noticed in the *Journal* a very elaborate article from the learned Dr. Wilson, Westchester, Pa. The doctor wishes some one to suggest some mode of treatment for that terrible disease, trichina spiralis, as he has had a number of cases, all terminating fatally. Now I never had a case of the kind, but I firmly believe that carbolic acid will effectually destroy these animalculæ and parasitic family. The trichinæ are not confined wholly to the alimentary canal, but may be found throughout the system; and in order to reach them with carbolic acid, I would advise its admixture with glycerine, which is the most efficient vehicle for its dissemination through every part of the body, as glycerine will rapidly penetrate both flesh and bone, and carry with it such chemical agents as it may be charged with. I would also recommend the liquor sodæ bi-sulphatis as a very valuable agent in the treatment of this disease. In addition to destroying parasitic life, it reduces the inflammation, and allays the pain caused by the ravages of the trichinæ.

I would, therefore, direct the following to be given:

R Glycerine,..... ℥ i.
 Acid Carbolic,..... grs. iii. M.

One-teaspoonful every three hours.

Alternate every three hours with—

R Liquor sodæ bi-sulphatis,..... gtts. xx.
 Aqua,..... ℥ i. M.

In urgent cases I would give the medicine every hour until relief is obtained. These anti-parasitic agents may be safely administered in a

diluted form, as above described, and no injurious results can possibly occur to the most delicate constitution.—*Eclectic Medical Journal of Pennsylvania*, September and October, 1870.

TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION. DR. GOODWIN W. TIMMS, one of the physicians to the North London Consumption Hospital (*Medical and Surgical Reporter, from the Dublin Medical Press and Circular*), concludes an article on this subject as follows:

We may sum up shortly our treatment of consumption: Light, simple, and nourishing diet, in quantity always in proportion to the appetite of the individual (the palate is an excellent guide, which we should always be afraid to offend), all wholesome fruits and vegetables, a moderate amount of thoroughly cooked meat, and diluents, tea, milk, whey, &c., according to the patient's experience, avoiding all stimulants and forcing of the appetite. Regimen: excitement of the skin by constant cleanliness, friction and woollen clothing; fresh air—sea air, if possible; exercise of every kind, gymnastic exercises, singing, reading; the avoidance of every restriction by dress upon the chest-walls, and of indolence and self-indulgence of every kind; the exclusion of gas from all apartments inhabited by the invalid; early hours, and as short a sojourn as possible in the same atmosphere; hence it is better to take a short sleep in the day than to remain more than six or seven hours in the bedroom, the windows of which should never be shut except on particular occasions, or under peculiar circumstances.

Drug treatment. An obstinate cough, with expectoration, in the member of a consumptive family, unaccompanied by much general disturbance, is most successfully treated by twelve or fifteen drops of dilute hydrochloric acid in one ounce of water every two hours. Patients often declare that they taste the chlorine in the expectoration. *Medical Archives*.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1870.

UTERINE INERTIA OVERCOME BY MANUAL DISTENTION OF THE PERINÆUM.—By DR. VAN DER MEERSCH. The distention of the perinæum, by the pressure of the child's head, excited by reflex action, increases uterine contractions, a fact which all accoucheurs have verified. The application of the forceps, by the distention of the vulva and the perinæum which it causes, always gives the same result. Dr. Van der Meersch, having had his attention called to these facts, has employed, for some years, and with great advantage, a method which brings about the same result. When toward the end of labor, the pains begin to

grow feeble and at last to disappear entirely, whether the membranes are broken or not, the cervix more or less obliterated he excites them anew by introducing the right index and middle fingers as far as the head of the child; then separating the fingers to the distance of four or five centimetres, he applies the tips to the recto-vaginal wall against which the head should be pressing, and then draws them gradually toward the external orifice, pressing against the wall so as to exercise a decided distention of the perinæum. Repeated several times successively, especially at the period of a pain, this little manœuvre brings about rapid and effective contractions, in place of infrequent and feeble ones.—*L' Union Medicale*, May 14.

The method of Dr. Van der Meersch is not unknown among us, but has been employed by accoucheurs in Boston for many years.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, September, 1870.

GONORRHOEA.—Dr. BLACK, of Glasgow, does not think that any irritant, whether chemical, physical, or vital, is quite sufficient to give rise to a gonorrhœa, and that "the majority of females who communicate gonorrhœa do not suffer from it themselves," as has been said by some authorities. He lays down two propositions—1. That married men have never been known to contract gonorrhœa from their wives; and 2. That in remote country districts, and in islands, where there is no prostitution, gonorrhœa is never seen save as an importation. The incubation period is from four to five days to some weeks. Gonorrhœa, then, is a local specific inflammation. His own firm conviction is that, when once the specific irritation sets in, neither diluents nor cooling drinks are of any use. Contrary to Mr. Hutchinson's views, Dr. Black thinks that in injections the amount of irritation, and the strength of the injection should be in an inverse ratio. He is persuaded that sulphate of magnesia should not be administered in the acute stage. He likes as injection, a mixture of sulphate and acetate of lead, three grains of the former to two of the latter, with a drachm of glycerine in an ounce of water, half of this injected four times a day. For repeated injections he prefers to retaining the solution. At the same time he administers cubebs. Chloride of zinc, three grains to the ounce, or a drachm of tannin with half a drachm of borax, and one ounce of glycerine in seven ounces of water, are recommended as injections.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, August, 1870.

RETRACTED NIPPLE.—Dr. Geo. H. LYMAN, Boston, Mass. (*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*) at a late meeting of the Boston Obstetrical

Society, described the manner in which the child's tongue "strips" the nipple between its tongue and upper jaw, as a milker strips the cow's udder with his fingers. He had observed the operation in the mouth of an infant with hare lip.

He had also related the case of a woman whose nipple was so poorly developed as to be apparently on a level with the breast. After confinement the breast could not be evacuated; the consequence of which was an excessively troublesome abscess. In her next pregnancy the plan was adopted of breaking off the neck of an ordinary wine bottle (with smooth lips), and binding it on to the breast in such a manner that the circular rim of glass pressed upon the areola around the base of the nipple. This was done for ten days preceding confinement, and the result was most satisfactory. Not only was a deep circular depression made around the nipple, but the latter became more elevated; and the success of the experiment was established by the ease with which the child, when born, accomplished the act of sucking.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, September, 1870.

ECZEMA, By J. H. M'TAGGART, M. D., Philadelphia. Have we a remedy curative in the different forms of eczema—a remedy that will combat it in its hereditary form; where it depends upon a strumous taint or a broken down condition; where it depends upon dyspepsia, or gout, or deficient elimination, or on organic disease of some organ? We have such a remedy in tag alder. It is true; we may have to resort to hygiene, to diet, to tonics and other agents to meet special points, but the tag alder is undoubtedly the best remedy we possess in all forms of eczema. Its action on the skin is decided. The following is the formula that I admire:

℞ Fluid ext. tag alder,..... ʒ vi.
 Tinct. nux vomica,.....
 " kalmi,..... āā 3 ii. M.

A teaspoonful every three hours.

As a local application, nothing can excel the following:

℞ Stramonium ointment,..... ʒ ii.
 Carbolic acid,..... grs. xxx.
 Sulphite soda,..... 3 ii. M.

Apply sparingly at bed-time.

Where the above fails, push some preparation of phosphorus.—*Eclectic Medical Journal of Pennsylvania*, September and October, 1870.

CUTANEOUS ERUPTIONS DUE TO BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.—M. VOSSIN has observed in 96 cases of epilepsy treated with bromide of potassium, five different kinds of cutaneous eruption, which he imputes to the action of the drug, viz: 1. Acne, which is the most common, is preceded by itching; mostly affects the face and chest; occurs most frequently in full-blooded persons; and is unaffected by the season. The use of diuretics, together with a lotion of flax-seed tea, was found to keep the eruption in abeyance, without the need of suspending the bromide. 2. A peculiar eruption which occurred in six cases, and consisted of little tumors formed by groups of very indolent acne-like pustules, generally seated on the legs; inflamed at the base and depressed at the center; painful to the touch except at the center; tardily discharging a matter like that of furuncles; healing slowly, and leaving cicatrices which, when seated over a bone, are painful on pressure. They occur oftenest in winter, and are accompanied by acne over the body. Early incision was of no benefit; but rest, and the application of poultices and opiated cerate, are recommended. 3. A variety of *urticaria*, occurring in two instances, and somewhat resembling erythema nodosum. It occurred only after long continuance of the bromide in large doses. 4. Furuncles. 5. A very moist eczema of the legs, with pityriasis of the scalp.—*Gazette des Hospitaux*, 1868.—*Oregon Medical and Surgical Reporter*, April, 1870.

WHOOPIING COUGH TREATED BY CHLORAL.—BY DR. A. FERRAUD. Dr. F. had three patients in one family with whooping cough, which he had treated unsuccessfully with various remedies. He then tried chloral, which he gave in syrup, in the proportion of 2 grammes to 150. In each spoonful of the mixture there were 25 centigrammes of chloral. The first three days two spoonfuls were prescribed for each evening, were not regularly given, and only the tolerance of the medicine was established. Then three spoonfuls were prescribed and were regularly given. Now there was an abrupt and favorable change. Instead of three or four attacks of coughing and vomiting, in the course of each night, there was an unbroken and refreshing sleep. In the morning, on awaking, there was an attack of the cough for a few days, which soon disappeared. Recovery was rapid.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Jour.*—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, September, 1870.

OPIUM IN DIABETES.—According to Dr. Pavy, opium, morphia, and codeine, all possess the property of checking the elimination of sugar by the urine. Codeine is most powerful, commencing with one half-

grain dose and going on to ten-grain doses thrice a day. A man, aged fifty, after restricted diet and alkalies, was passing urine of specific gravity 10.38, with 26.64 grains of sugar per ounce. After 30 days of opium there was no sugar, and the specific gravity of the urine was 10.25. On leaving off the opium again, the specific gravity rose to 10.48, and 10.65 grains of sugar were passed in 24 hours. On renewing the opium, the sugar immediately lessened, although he continued to take ordinary food. A woman, aged 68, passed five pints of urine of 10.40 specific gravity, and sugar to the extent of 32.72 grains daily. By the use of opium, with ordinary diet, the urine in three months was of specific gravity 19.16, and quite free from sugar. She continued well for 12 months; then anxiety and over work renewed the disease. Again three months of codeine completely cured her. This is a great discovery of Dr. Pavy's.—*Dublin Medical Press and Circular*.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, June, 1870.

ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF CARBOLIC ACID IN VARIOLA.—M. GODEROY, Professor of Midwifery at Rennes, has recently employed carbolic acid in three cases of variola; he employed it both externally and internally. Internally, one part of carbolic acid was added to one hundred and twenty-five of dilute mucilage (*potion gommeuse*), and a teaspoonful given every two hours; externally, the surface of the body was sponged every hour with a solution of one part of carbolic acid in five hundred of water. Beef-tea (*potages*) was the sole nutriment allowed; and the result in all three cases was sufficiently encouraging; in all there was neither suppuration of the pustules nor secondary fever. One was an adult, unvaccinated; another a young man of seventeen, successfully vaccinated in his youth; and the third, an infant of eighteen months. The latter was the only one who had any difficulty in taking the potion; in her the smallpox commenced in the beginning of May, and all the pustules were dried up by the 12th of May. We find the above in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal* from the *Revue de Therapeutique Medico-Chirurgicale*.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, October, 1870.

SUB-CUTANEOUS INJECTIONS IN ASTHMA.—Prof. HIRTZ has tried the effect of sub-cutaneous injections of morphia in this disease. His first patient was a young girl, handsome and intelligent, and otherwise healthy, but having monthly attacks of asthma. At these times respiration was so noisy as to be heard outside the room. One hundredth of a gramme of acetate of morphia was injected in the arm, and in five minutes the greatest relief was experienced. The same since that time

has cut short all attacks, although almost every sort of treatment had previously been tried in vain.

Prof. Hirtz had also tried the sulphate of atropia subcutaneously. He finds that in doses of a five-hundredth gramme it acts more rapidly but less permanently than the above-mentioned quantity of morphia. In chronic cases it may be well to try the two remedies alternately.—*Bull. Gen. de Therap.*—*Oregon Med. and Surg. Reporter*, April, 1870.

FLATULENT DISTENSION OF THE COLON, WITH OR WITHOUT DIARRHŒA.—We take the following short extract from a paper by Dr. Habershon, of Guy's Hospital, on functional disease of the colon:

To check the flatulent distention of the colon from gaseous evolution, creosote and carbolic acid hold a deservedly prominent position. And when there is also diarrhœa, carbolate of lime may be given internally with marked benefit. The carbolate of lime as prepared by Mr. Squire, of Oxford street, is perfectly white, and the smell is not so strong as the ordinary carbolate of lime used as a disinfecting agent. I have generally given it in one grain doses combined with henbane; and I may remark that in the diarrhœa of phthisis, where there is evidence of fermentative changes in the colon, I have repeatedly used the carbolate of lime with good effect.—*Oregon Med. and Surg. Reporter*, Apr., 1870.

DIGITALIS IN ORCHITIS.—In the *Bulletin de Therapeutique*, for February, 1870, Dr. BESNIER states that having frequently seen M. DIBOUT employ digitalis with success as an outward application in cases of hydrocele, he has adopted the same plan in cases of orchitis, however produced, and the result obtained have been such as to warrant further trial. The mode of procedure he adopted was the following: The invalid is kept at perfect rest, with the scrotum conveniently raised, and constantly surrounded with compresses soaked in a concentrated infusion of the leaves of the digitalis. The infusion may be either warm or cold, as most agreeable to the feelings of the patient, but under any circumstances they should be kept constantly moist; a covering of oiled silk being placed over all.—*Half-Yearly Compendium of Medical Science*, July, 1870.

SULPHITE OF SODA IN TINEA CAPITIS, ETC.—In the *American Jour. of Medical Science* for October, 1869, Dr. Chas. M. Watrous, of Pennsylvania, recommends the Sulphite of Soda, as a local application in tinea capitis, crusta lactea and similar affections. In one case he used

half an ounce to a pint of water, applied constantly by compresses wet with the solution—making it weaker as it caused smarting. In another case he used forty grains of the sulphite to half an ounce each of distilled water and glycerine, the parts moistened with this three or four times a day. This last prescription he has used in the ear three times a day in scrofulous otitis, dropping in a few drops after washing the ear out, and excluding the air by cotton wool.—*Oregon Medical and Surg. Reporter*, April, 1870.

TO REMOVE SILVER STAINS.—The *Popular Science Review* copies from the *Photographic News* the following: Put half a pound of Glauber salts, quarter of a pound of the chloride of lime (the sanitary disinfectant) and eight ounces of water into a little wide mouthed bottle, and when required for use, pour some of the thick sediment into a saucer, and rub it well over the hands with pumice stone or a nail brush, and it will clean the fingers quite equal to cyanide, but without any danger. This will do to use over again until exhausted, and should be kept corked up. The disagreeable smell may be entirely avoided by the liberal use of lemon juice, which not only entirely removes the smell, but whitens the hands.—*Oregon Med. and Surg. Reporter*, April, 1870.

MANGANESE IN BLOOD AND MILK.—A memoir just read at the Royal Academy of Sciences of Italy, by Professor Polucci, announces a great discovery. It is the constant presence of manganese in the human blood. In more than 20 analyses of the blood of persons of different sexes, professions, health, and temperament, there was always found a certain proportion of manganese. One of the consequences of this fact is that the metal ought also to be found in milk. Submitted to experiment this deduction is entirely confirmed. In 34 analyses of milk, 23 of which were human, four from the cow, and four from the goat, the presence of manganese was constantly observed.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, June, 1870.

TINEA.—No skin diseases are more annoying than those designated by the name of "ringworms." In tinea circinata and tonsurans, one or two applications of a solution of chromic acid (one drachm to the ounce of water) has in the writer's hands proved very efficacious in curing the disease. Sometimes liquor potassæ painted over the affected part answers very well, or a solution of carbolic acid, which remedy checks the development of spores, and also prevents them from germinating.—*American Practitioner*, September 1870.

SUBNITRATE OF BISMUTH IN DIARRHOEA OF YOUNG CHILDREN.—**HELLER**, in the *Deutsches Archiv für Klinische Medicin*, vol. vi., recommends, in the treatment of the diarrhoea of early life, the subnitrate of bismuth, to the extent of from thirty to sixty grains. In the commencement, Dr. H. gives a dose of the remedy every hour until the diarrhoea is arrested, which usually occurs at the end of twenty-four hours. He has never seen any bad result from the use of the remedy. During the continuance of the diarrhoea the patient is to be debarred the use of milk.—*D. F. C. in the American Journal of Med. Sciences.*—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, Sept., 1870.

ITCH TREATED BY BALSAM OF PERU.—Balsam of Peru is claimed to be an effectual remedy for itch. The treatment is as follows: The patient is stripped and well and carefully rubbed over with Peru balsam, from crown to heel, avoiding the production of abrasions. It soaks into the galleries and eggs, and kills everything on the body within an hour. A second rubbing, ten days after, destroys any stray animalculæ or products of eggs that may by chance have been in the clothes at the first rubbing and thus does away with any need for baking or otherwise disinfecting the clothing.—*Edin. Med. Jour.*, May, 1870.—*Am. Jour. Med. Sci.*—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, Sept., 1870.

ELIXIR OF CHLOROFORM.—The following *Elizir Chloroform* is recommended by the Pharmaceutical Association at Washington, D. C.:

R Chloroform, tinct. opi., tinct. camph., spir. ammon. ar., aa $\frac{3}{4}$ iss.
 Oil of cinnamon,..... gtts, xx.
 Brandy,..... $\frac{3}{4}$ ij.

M. S. Half a fluid drachm, more or less.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1870.

SULPHATE OF NICKEL IN NEURALGIA.—A case of obstinate neuralgia is related which was cured by sulphate of Nickel, in doses of half a grain, three times a day. At the end of a week a dose of one grain was given. Its sedative action was speedily manifested in reducing the pulse and procuring sleep. All symptoms of the paroxysm disappeared. The remedy seems worth a trial.—*Physician and Pharmaceutist.*—*Oregon Medical and Surgical Reporter*, April, 1870.

Editorial.

EXTENSIVE ART-GALLERY.—Next to the Bible, no book is more useful than Webster's Dictionary. The Unabridged is an *extensive art-gallery*, containing over three thousand engravings, representing almost every animal, insect, reptile, implement, plants, etc., which we know anything about. It is a vast library, giving information on almost every mentionable subject. It indeed has been well remarked that it is the most remarkable *compendium of human knowledge* in our language. *Household Advocate.*

BEST BOOK FOR EVERYBODY.—The new illustrated edition of Webster's Dictionary, containing three thousand engravings, is the *best book for everybody* that the press has produced in the present century, and should be regarded as indispensable to the well-regulated home, reading room, library and place of business.—*Golden Era.*

CASE OF HERNIA REDUCED BY APPLICATION OF ICE.

BY JOHN W. FALLEY, M D., HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN.

February 16th, 1870.

In the January No., I see an interesting case of reduction of Hernia, by the hot bath, by Dr. Gifford of Gloucester.

As opposites often effect the same results in medicine, allow me to give a case where ice effected the same thing.

A strong man about middle life, had a large inguinal hernia which he always supported with a truss, but which would sometimes come down. In Aug. I was sent for to see him. The messenger informed me that his breach had been down for several hours, and he was in terrible pain. As he lived four miles from town, I took a large piece of ice with me. On arriving at the house, so intense was the pain, though a good christian man, he said I could not help him, but if I had anything that would put him out of his misery, he would take it. I found the tumor as large as a quart bottle and perfectly tense and hard. Some ice was pounded fine, and I applied a cup of it over the whole tumor. In about ten minutes I took off the cup and found the tumor reduced at least one-third, and the skin much corrugated. By a little manipulation, I succeeded in effecting a reduction. I might add that before applying the ice, I tried to return the tumor, but might as well have attempted to put the leg up into the abdomen.

BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM IN PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

BY H. M. HEARN, M. D.

Statesville, Tenn. August 8th, 1870.

June 9th, 1870, called to Mrs. B—at 5 o'clock A. M. Clinical history. Primipara æt. 20; great plethora; had been stupid for several days; pains recurring every fifteen minutes; soft parts relaxed; os dilating slowly. The case moved on apparently in a natural channel, until 11 o'clock A. M., when she was seized with convulsions. As soon as the first was off, I administered 15 grs. of the bromide; in ten minutes another spasm came on, when this subsided, I gave 15 grains more of the bromide. I then sent for consultation, keeping up the administration of the medicine every ten minutes. My friend, Dr. Knight, (a gentleman of extensive practical experience) arrived in one hour, during which time the spasm had not returned. The bromide was then abandoned for the purpose of administering another drug; the spasm returned thirty minutes after his arrival, (making in all an interval of $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours between the second and third spasm) and continued to return at short intervals, until she had in all, eleven. We succeeded in delivering her with the forcep; and saved the lives of both mother and child.

CASE 2nd. August 7th, 1870, was called to attend Miss. P.—Clinical history. Primipara æt. 19; had been complaining for several days of heaviness, torpor and lassitude. She was evidently very plethoric; spasms came on at the onset of her labor; in fact she aroused her bed-mate by her convulsive movements, which was the first notice of her condition.

She had six spasms before my arrival. I at once administered the bromide of potash, remembering an article in the January No. of this *Journal*, by A. C. WILLIAMS of Choctaw, Ill., who wished the profession would "give it a fair trial." The spasms had produced such a comatous state of her system that it was with difficulty that the medicine could be swallowed, and it was not until after the fifteenth spasm that I succeeded in getting her to swallow a tablespoonful of a solution 3 ss. to 1 $\frac{2}{3}$ of water. This interval was three-quarters of an hour, then came two successively, then another interval, I continued the use of the bromide during this interval which was longer, then came two more spasms, one after the other, and I gave a larger dose than before. She had one more spasm, the slightest and last. I continued the use of the

bromide which completely held the spasm at bay, while I proceeded to dissect and remove the child. She had no more spasms, but died three hours after delivery.

REMARKS.—I honestly believe that if this drug was administered in due time and persevered in, that the severest cases of convulsions could be controlled.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE AND FLORAL GUIDE.

We deviate from our usual custom, not to notice editorially publications except those possessing strictly a claim of professional interest, to call our readers attention to the "Illustrated Catalogue and Floral Guide," published by the well-known florist, Mr. James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y. It contains minute and valuable information in regard to the cultivation not only of flowers, but of vegetables—a full descriptive catalogue of all varieties of seeds—is elaborately and beautifully illustrated, and the *tout ensemble* of the work, indicates at once artistic taste and thorough knowledge of the subject.

We procured seeds of various kinds from Mr. Vick last season, and were much satisfied with the results obtained. Several varieties of the *Aster*, *Balsam*, *Phlox*, *Stock*, *Petunia* and *Gladiolus* were especially noticeable for beauty and fragrance.

A taste for the culture of flowers is always the sure index of a refined mind, and we feel that we are doing our readers a service in bringing a matter of so much interest before them.

✂ A pressure of other matter compels us unavoidably to defer till the February Number an interesting article on the "Adulteration of Fluid Extracts."

Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names*, *Town*, *County* and *State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

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[No. 2.

Communications.

CROTON ELEUTERIA.

(*Cascarilla*.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Euphorbiaceæ.

In the Linnean system, this plant will be found in class *Monœcia*, and order, *Monadelphæa*.

HABITAT.—Bahama Island.

PART USED.—The Bark.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Staminate flowers—calyx cylindrical, 5-toothed; petals 5, or none; stamens ten to fifteen. Pistillate flowers—calyx 5-sepalled, or none; corol none; styles 3 or 6, 2-cleft; capsule 3 grained, 3-celled, 3-seeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—A small compact shrub, three to five feet in height, rising occasionally to a tree to the height of twenty feet, thickly branched at the top, erect. Bark marked irregularly with grayish stains, and various, mostly crustaceous lichens. Leaves alternate, scanty, two or three inches in length, slightly cordate, acuminate, petiolate, pale or grayish-green, with a few pel-tate scales above, and a dense clothing of shining silvery scales

beneath. Flowers monœcious, white, small, closely set, and shortly pedunculate, in terminal or axillary spikes, fragrant. Capsule roundish, lobed, about the size of a pea covered with silvery peltate scales.

HISTORY.—Dr. Stillé, in giving a history of this plant, observes:—"Cascarilla (a diminutive of the Spanish word *cascara*, and meaning little bark), according to Pomet was brought to France from South America, in 1607, by M. Legras; and in 1684, Stisser described its aromatic taste and smell, and referred to its being frequently mixed with Peruvian bark. This same Stisser published a book in the year 1693, in which he states that a portion of the bark had been given him by an Englishman of some celebrity, and that he had made tinctures of it, and tried its medicinal powers in calculous affections, in asthma, phthisis, and scurvy, that he had reason to be satisfied with his success, and adjudged it to be diuretic and carminative. At that time it was much used to mix with smoking tobacco, to which it imparted an aromatic fragrance and taste, and as a medicine in intermittent, hectic, and malignant fevers, dysentery and flatulence of the bowels."

Relative to its use with tobacco, the United States Dispensatory says, in consequence of its pleasant odor when burnt, some smokers mix it in small quantity with their tobacco; but it is said when thus employed to occasion vertigo and intoxication.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND ACTION.—Aromatic, bitter, and tonic. It is a mild carminative, and has the advantage over other medicines of the same class of not causing constipation. It will often be retained when the stomach is unable to bear the stronger tonics. Its activity depends upon a volatile oil, and a peculiar crystalline principle.

THERAPEUTICS.

Bronchial Affections.—Somewhat analogous to a property of *Anthemis Nobilis* recently discovered, this agent possesses a virtue for which many have employed it in the treatment of this malady. Pereira observes in his treatise upon *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics*, that cascarilla is employed in the treatment of chronic bronchial affections, to check excessive secretion of mucus.

Dr. Waring remarks in his *Therapeutics*, p. 195; in bronchial affections attended with excessive secretion of mucus, a combination

of infus. cascarilla fl. oz. iv, acet. scillæ (Ph. Lond.) fl. dra. ij. tinct. camph. cum opio. fl. dra. ij, in doses of fl. oz, thrice daily, may be given with advantage.

This malady is frequently complicated with other affections, and may often require counter-irritants, such as sinapisms, croton oil, or blisters, &c., and a variety of internal remedies may be brought into requisition, nevertheless, if tonics are indicated, cascarilla may be administered in conjunction with most of the usual remedies employed in the treatment of this affection, with a two-fold object in view, viz. of arresting excessive secretion of mucus and imparting tone to the patient.

Atonic Dyspepsia.—Dr. Waring observes, in atonic dyspepsia and in debility from whatever cause, particularly in that occurring after fever, the infusion of cascarilla is particularly indicated, and is productive of much benefit.

Pereira says, in this country cascarilla is principally employed in those forms of dyspepsia requiring an aromatic stimulant and tonic. Dr. King mentions its use in dyspepsia, and flatulency.

Many cases will respond favorably to the administration of this agent alternated with pepsine, bismuth, or hydrocyanic acid. Many authors recommend the employment of this agent in the treatment of dyspepsia.

Intermittent and Remittent Fevers.—Waring observes, in intermittent and remittent fevers, cascarilla was formerly held in high esteem, particularly in Germany. Stisser, Stahleaus, and others considered it a perfect substitute for Cinchona. Its inferiority to that bark is now universally admitted, to which, however, it is an excellent adjunct, rendering it, by its aromatic qualities, more agreeable to the stomach, and increasing its febrifuge powers. (A. T. Thompson.) Many other agents can be used to advantage, in the treatment of intermittent and remittent fevers, and employed in conjunction with this remedy, viz. : dry cupping along the whole length of the spine, ferri sulphas, coffee, opium, &c.

Gangrenous Thrush of Children.—Dr. Underwood is quoted by Waring, as advising the use of cascarilla in the treatment of gangrenous thrush of children. It will be found highly beneficial in this malady to administer the cascarilla in conjunction with the

fluid extract of baptisia tinctoria, or with its active principle baptisin. Baptisin is said to possess the power of preventing, or arresting the decomposition of the tissues, hence its value in such cases.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract, - - - Dose, 20 to 30 Drops.

TINCTURE OF CASCARILLA.

Fluid Extract - - - Five Ounces.

Diluted Alcohol - - - Two Pints.

Dose—one dram.

INFUSION OF CASCARILLA.

Fluid Extract - - - One Ounce.

Water - - - One Pint.

Dose—one to three drams.

ALKALINE INFUSION OF CASCARILLA.

Fluid Extract - - - Three Ounces.

Carbonate of Potassa - - - Two Drams.

Water - - - Ten Ounces.

Dose—One dram, as an antacid and tonic.

COMPOUND WINE OF CASCARILLA.

Fluid Extract of Cascarilla One-and-a-half ozs.

" " " Orange Peel - One Ounce.

Essence of Cinnamon - - - Two Drams.

White Wine - - - Twenty-seven ozs.

Dose—Two ounces, four times a day.

HYDRANGAEA ARBORESCENS.

(*Hydrangea.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Lindley located this Genus in the natural order Caprifoliaceæ; by others it has been placed in natural order, Saxifragaceæ. In the artificial classification, this plant belongs to class *Decandria*, and order *Digynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 5-toothed, superior; corol 5-petalled, capsule 2-celled, 2-beaked, dehiscent between the beaks.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—This plant is the *Hydrangea Vulgaris* of Michaux, and the *Hydrangea Cordata* of Pursh.

(Flowers in August, woody.) Leaves oblong-ovate, obtuse at the base, acuminate, toothed, glabrous beneath; cymes naked.

HABITAT.—This shrub grows in great abundance in most of the Southern and Western States, also in some of the Middle States. It is said to grow abundantly in the vicinity of Harper's Ferry.

PART USED.—The root.

PROPERTIES.—Resolvent, alterative, slightly anodyne, and diuretic.

HISTORY.—The first account we have of the medicinal employment of this agent, is to be traced to the Cherokee Indians. Dr. S. W. Butler, of Burlington, New Jersey, has the honor of introducing this agent to the notice of the Medical Profession, some few years since, through the *New Jersey Medical Report*. He states that his father, whilst on a mission to the Cherokees, learned of them the merits of this plant in the treatment of gravel and stone, and has himself employed it for many years in an extensive practice among a people peculiarly subject to those complaints. Dr. Monkur, of Baltimore, says that he regards the hydrangea, in properly selected cases, as sure in its remedial agency as we may express of any other medical substance.

REMEDIAL EMPLOYMENT.

Irritation of the Urethra.—Dr. Parrish, in his *Practical Pharmacy*, observes that he has been preparing it for several years, and has dispensed it under the direction of several practitioners to numerous patients, and with general satisfactory results, in irritable conditions of the urethra; though its value as a specific remedy, he thinks, requires confirmation. Irritation of the mucous membrane of the urethra is frequently produced by a morbid condition of the urine as well as a variety of other causes, such as verminous irritation of the alimentary canal, indigestion, impure coition, etc. Painful micturition not unfrequently ensues from any one of these causes, and in most instances will be relieved by the free administration of hydrangea. This agent contains a large amount of mucilage, which serves as a valuable demulcent, and directly alleviates the excruciating pain consequent upon micturition.

Should this agent fail in any case of affording relief, alternate it with full doses of hyoscyamus, camphor, morphia, belladonna, aconite, or chloral, as the indications may demand. Many who have employed the hydrangea in the treatment of this harrassing complaint are very emphatic in its commendation. Various complications may coexist with this malady which require distinct, and special consideration. Dr. Monkur, of Baltimore, reports favorably relative to the use of this remedy in chronic gleet.

Urinary Concretions or Calculi.—Dr. Butler, who brought this article before the Medical Profession, says:—"What I particularly wish to call attention to, is the fact that a remedy exists which has been successfully employed for removing calculi after they have been formed. The effect the remedy seemed capable of producing, is removing by its own specific action, from the bladder such deposits as may be contained in that viscus, provided they are small enough to pass the urethra. It has seemed also to have the power of relieving the excruciating pain attendant on the passage of a calculus through the ureter. Whether this is dependent upon any anodyne property which the remedy may possess, or upon its action in removing the cause by promoting the discharge of the calculus, I know not, but think most likely on the latter. The power of curing stone in the bladder does not appear to be claimed for it. It is only while the deposits are small, when in that form of disease known as gravel, that it is an efficient remedy; then, by removing the neuclei, which, if allowed to remain in the organ, increase in size, and form stone, the disease is averted. Employed at this stage of the disease, it has proved beneficial in nearly every instance, and as many as 120 calculi have been known to come from a person under its use. In an over-dose, it produces unpleasant symptoms—such as dizziness of the head, oppression of the chest, &c." Doct. Butler, among a great number of cures, mentions that of a farmer of forty-five years of age, who had been suffering from calculi four or five years. The hydrangea relieved him of pain immediately, and he subsequently exhibited two of several calculi he had passed under its influence soon after he began its use. The largest of these weighed eleven grains, and was nearly half an inch long; he also passed a great deal of sand.

Dr. Atlee, of Philadelphia, publishes an account of a case in the

hands of Dr. D. Horsley, where the patient passed a stone the size of an ordinary marble. The leaves of Hydrangea, are said by Dr. Eoff, as quoted by J. King, to be tonic, sialagogue, cathartic, and diuretic. The author has employed this agent in several cases of gravel with the best success. In most of the cases a number of calculi passed from the patients, while under the influence of this remedy.

The author was called in consultation, to visit an elderly gentleman afflicted with urinary concretions, and enlargement and induration of the prostate gland. The catheter had to be introduced daily, to empty the bladder; its introduction was painful and difficult. The patient was ordered the fluid extract of hydrangea in full doses, every four hours. Relief soon followed its use, and the use of the catheter was no longer necessary. This patient continued to keep the hydrangea in his house for three or four years, and whenever symptoms indicated a return of his difficulty, a few doses of hydrangea, invariably, gave him relief.

The author is confident that this remedy possesses very valuable diuretic properties, having many times directed it for that purpose, with the most satisfactory results.

PREPARATION.

Fluid Extract - Dose, 1 to 2 Drams.

ON THE USE OF CALOMEL IN LARGE DOSES IN
THE TREATMENT OF DYSENTERY AND
DIARRHŒA.

BY J. F. KENNEDY, M. D., OF DES MOINES, IOWA.

I know that, in advocating large doses of so unpopular a remedy as calomel has grown to be, I shall lay myself open to criticism, especially as I do not expect to be able to prove the *rationale* of its action. The generally received opinion is that "calomel increases the secretion of bile." Recent researches, however, seem to prove this opinion to be incorrect. THUDICHUM goes so far even as to say that "Calomel is *not* a cholagogue, but *diminishes* the secretion of bile."

I do not indulge the hope, nor will I even make the effort, to set at rest the conflicting opinions relative to the cholagogue properties of this drug, but will only give my own experience in regard to its sedative and diaphoretic effects when exhibited in large doses in the treatment of acute dysentery and diarrhœa.

The few cases here presented occurred in my practice at Tipton, in this State. The city is located on a high rolling prairie, eight miles from the Cedar River, and is remarkably free from malarial poison. The cases were endemic and of the sthenic type.

CASE I. In the fall of 1867 I was called to see Rev. Mr. R., aged 38, native of Pennsylvania. He was laboring under a severe attack of acute dysentery. Treated him until the sixth day with the most approved and popular remedies, but with no improvement in his symptoms. On the sixth day the pulse was 120 and wiry; tongue furred and dry; abdomen very tender, especially over the colon; very restless, and having frequent and bloody discharges attended with bloody tormina. In fact I thought the prognosis very unfavorable. Gave him at 7 P. M. calomel grs. xxiv. at one dose. About midnight was summoned to see the patient as he was thought to be dying. What was my surprise and gratification to find him bathed in perspiration with tongue moist; pulse 65, full and soft; tenderness of abdomen greatly reduced; not having an evacuation from the bowels; and saying he felt so easy and free from pain that his wife feared mortification of his bowels had occurred. He had gone to sleep about an hour after taking the dose, and had slept quietly until awakened by his alarmed friends. About 7 A. M. of the day following he had one *feculent* discharge, and from that time convalesced rapidly, nothing further being administered except castor oil and vegetable tonics. This was the first time I had ever administered a "sedative" dose of calomel and the results were highly gratifying.

CASES II AND III. Jacob and Samuel M., æt. 37 and 28 years, brothers—natives of Ohio. Both taken at the same time with severe acute dysentery. Gave them a free dose of castor oil with a few drops of laudanum. Gave them subsequently ipecac., small doses of calomel, camphor, opium, and oleaginous compounds until the fifth day, when they were no better. Gave them scruple doses of calomel at bed-time, and on my return next day, found Samuel convalescing and Jacob much relieved. Gave the latter another xx gr. dose at bed time, and the next day treatment was discontinued. Both convalesced rapidly and made a complete recovery. In these cases, the sedative, diaphoretic and quieting effects were observed as in the first case.

CASE IV. A medical friend of large experience consulted me in reference to his son, six years of age. He had acute diarrhœa of six or eight days' duration. Had given him all the combinations that a large experience, good judgment, and a father's devotion could suggest—including enemata, counter-irritants, etc. The child seemed rapidly growing worse, and as all that I felt disposed to recommend had already been used in vain, I suggested calomel grs. x. to be given at one dose at bed-time, to be followed by a small dose of castor oil the following morning. A rapid recovery was the result.

CASE V.—E. F. K., male, æt. 3 yrs.; acute diarrhœa, with frequent vomiting. After using other remedies in vain for three days, the vomiting and diarrhœa ceased upon the administration of calomel, grs. viii. at one dose.

I might here give in detail quite a number of other cases, in which the calomel when administered in large doses did good service—all recovering rapidly except one child of three years of age, that died within 12 hours after giving this drug—not because it was given, but in spite of it.

I have not used, nor do I recommend its use indiscriminately. I have found camphor, ipecac., hyd. c. creta, and oleaginous mixtures; a combination of glycerine; nux vomica and carbolic acid; hyoseyamus, and counter-irritants and enemata generally have the desired effect; but in those cases where these seemed inert, and where a sedative was indicated, I have used the calomel with the greatest satisfaction.

The remedy is not a new one, nor the dose, though it has become very unfashionable in these days of small doses and large "expectancy." It, therefore, requires considerable moral courage to use it or advocate its use, especially in some localities.

MEIGS & PEPPER, in their recent excellent "Treatise on Diseases of Children," recommend it for its "sedative and alterative" properties as a *purgative* in meningitis and in the treatment of convulsions; they say, "The best purgative, in severe cases, occurring in hearty children, is calomel. It is advantageous, because of its easy administration, its speedy operation and the *powerful sedative influence* which it exerts upon the whole economy."

Though they disparage small doses of calomel in dysentery and diarrhœa, yet the inference is natural, that because of its "powerful sedative influence" it is admirably adapted to the inflammatory stage of these diseases when exhibited in large doses.

One thing particularly observable in the above cases was, that while it was decidedly sedative and diaphoretic, it was not purgative. Indeed in every case the frequency of the evacuation was greatly diminished immediately after its administration.

Others have observed the same peculiarity. I might here insert a number of extracts from the written experience of medical observers, whose opinions are entitled to great respect, touching the comparative value of large over small doses of calomel in the treatment of these cases. If any are skeptical on this point let them give the remedy a fair and impartial trial. I firmly believe the result will be in accordance with the views above expressed.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, December, 1870.

CASE OF PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS—FORCED DELIVERY—PNEUMONIA—RECOVERY.

BY RALPH S. GOODWIN, M. D., OF THOMASTON, CT.

On the 24th of January, 1869, I was called in urgent haste to see Mrs. N., aged 18, a primipara who was then in the eighth month of her pregnancy. The messenger said that she had been suddenly taken in a *fit*.

Upon my arrival I found her in a violent puerperal convulsion, the face turned toward the left shoulder, and horribly distorted, frothing at the mouth, jerking the limbs, etc.

She had been as well as usual up to the time of the attack. She being plethoric, I drew from her arm, at once two quarts of blood. I then with some difficulty, made her swallow half a drachm of the bromide of potassium. Another convulsive seizure having occurred soon, I began to administer, by inhalation, chloroform until I had brought her thoroughly under the influence of it. Upon desisting from its use, violent convulsions returned every half hour or oftener, giving way, after three or four minutes, to a state of repose and entire unconsciousness.

Upon examination of the womb, I could detect no signs of impending labor. There were no contractions to be felt through the abdominal walls. The os was not dilated. The woman exhibited no signs of pain. I continued to administer bromide of potassium in thirty grain doses every hour, used the chloroform freely at intervals, and gave a large

stimulating injection which evacuated the bowels. But these measures were unavailing. The convulsions increased rather than diminished in violence and frequency.

After a perseverance of twelve hours with the same treatment, occasionally increasing the size and frequency of the dose, I found I had given one ounce of the bromide, and four ounces of chloroform.

Still the convulsions continued with frightful severity, and still no signs of approaching labor.

My patient's strength was going fast, and I decided that my only chance of saving her now, was by forcibly emptying the womb of its contents.

I had noticed that, although the os was not appreciably dilated, yet it was not in that rigid, unyielding state, so common to primiparæ.

Intrusting the exhibition of chloroform to an assistant, I gradually introduced my hand into the vagina, and introducing my fingers, one after another within the os, stretched it by separating them and forcing them slowly on. I succeeded after prolonged and persistent efforts, in passing the whole hand into the womb.

The rest was easy. Pushing the hand up to the fundus, I grasped the child's feet, and brought them down, and without further trouble, delivered a dead child which weighed six and a-half pounds.

During this operation of version, the woman had two convulsions, which interfered for the time with the operation, but no contractions of the womb were observed.

After delivery, there was very little hemorrhage, but fearing inertia of the womb and its attendant flooding, I gave three full doses of ergot at intervals of half an hour.

No more convulsions having occurred, I left the case till the next morning, directing twenty grains of bromide of potash to be given every four hours.

January 25th.—Two slight convulsions have occurred since delivery. The woman is still unconscious and muttering incoherently. By the use of the catheter a quart of smoky urine is drawn from the bladder. Examination shows the urine is loaded with albumen,—ordered the bromide to be given once in six hours.

January 26th.—No more convulsions; no hemorrhage from womb; patient looks about vacantly and tries to talk a little, but her mind is very weak. There are unmistakable signs of the first stage of pneu-

monia; crepitation over left lung; troublesome cough; pathognomonic expectoration; pulse 120. The treatment of the case is now directed to the pneumonia.

January 27th. No more convulsions; left lung solidified; right lung not affected; albumen still present in the urine; mind improving.

The subsequent history of this case presents no further points of interest. She passed regularly through the different stages of her pneumonia without sinking; the albumen disappeared slowly from the urine; the mind became stronger by degrees, and complete recovery took place at the expiration of 25 days.

The points of interest illustrated by this case are

1st. Forced delivery is not unfrequently the only remedy for puerperal convulsions.

2d. Delivery may be undertaken, after the seventh month, without danger, when the os is dilatable, even if there be no signs of labor.

3d. Pneumonia, caused possibly by a poisoned state of the blood, may be a complication of puerperal convulsions, though not always a fatal one.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, December, 1870.

DYSMENORRHOEA.

BY F. K. BAILEY, M. D., OF KNOXVILLE, TENN.

There are few disorders more universal, and at the same time endured more in silence, than painful menstruation. Occurring in early female life, there is an innate indisposition to complain except to the mother or other intimate friend. The normal status in menstruation seems to imply more or less malaise, and there is every gradation of departure from absolute anæsthesia, the slightest uneasiness being one extreme, and distress most excruciating the other. So long has woman suffered from the cause just mentioned, that, like the pangs of labor, it has become a matter of common expectation, and remedies suggested by domestic experience, are in a great proportion of cases the only ones used.

It seems almost like an act of inexcusable presumption for a man of ordinary pretensions to venture even a word in addition to the literature of dysmenorrhœa, after reading the exhaustive treatises of some of the late writers upon the subject.

The object of this article is merely to add a word to the therapeutics of so interesting an affection, rendered such because it involves the discomfort of the sex for whose happiness common politeness dictates our regard, and medical science our most untiring efforts.

In this locality, dysmenorrhœa may be considered as endemic. The varieties most commonly met with are the "neuralgic" and "congestive," as defined by Prof. T. GAILARD THOMAS. The first, because neuralgia is apt to occur upon every departure from a normal condition, and consequently at each recurring menstrual period there is an excuse for its obtrusion.

The second, by reason of the relaxing influence of continuous heat in the warm season, attended with dampness at night, and cool winds from the adjacent mountains. The prevalent dampness of our mild winters, renders one liable to become chilled, and undue exposure at the menstrual period, will induce uterine disturbance.

The ammoniated tinct. guiac. has been my most common prescription in ordinary cases, where the morbid condition appeared to be functional, but if attended with congestion, and an approach to hypertrophy of the uterine parietes, iod. potassium has been productive of good effects.

In cases attended with a profusion of the secretion, and followed by leucorrhœa, indicating a turgescence of the mucous surface, the bromide of potassium is found to allay pain, and may be given in connection with other remedies which are indicated in each case.

When there is constipation (and this is seldom an exception among females now-a-days), the pil. rhei compos. taken in moderate doses for a few nights before the expected time, acts favorably by relieving portal congestion, and obviating excessive determination both vascular and nervous, to the pelvic organs.

Still, most medication in such conditions can only be considered as palliative, and the sufferer is generally satisfied with a remedy which will afford temporary relief. A radical cure of the habit, or tendency to pain at the period is not generally expected. Confining ourselves to a palliation of distress "at such times," is like treating an intermittent only during a "paroxysm," without the attention being directed to the interval.

The great source of error, and consequent disappointment in efforts to treat the affection under consideration, is the regarding dysmenorrhœa as a distinct disease, whereas, in the language of Professor THOMAS, "it should be viewed as a symptom of an abnormal condition which should if possible, be discovered and removed."

Its occurrence under varying circumstances shows this to be the only correct view. In a case coming under my observation during the present year, the patient was a woman who had arrived at an age when the menstrual function generally ceases. For a year or more, the menses had been irregular in their recurrence, and when appearing attended with excessive flow and very severe pain commencing a day or two previous.

Such was the local determination to the uterus at those periods, that the distress was only comparable to labor, in intensity.

I was called in at one time and found her laboring under a paroxysm of excruciating pain in the region of the left ureter, which was only relieved on voiding a quantity of renal calculi. Very soon the pain came on in the uterine region, succeeded by a menorrhagic flow.

On one occasion I prescribed a mixture of chloroform, fluid ext. ergot, tinc. opii. camphorata with good effects, as a palliation, but it was only after the use of iod. potassium with iod. iron, continued for some time, that the health became materially improved.

I received some months since a pamphlet from Dr. STILES KENNEDY, of Newark, Del., in which he calls attention to the effects of iodoform, both uncombined and in connection with iron. Dr. K. considers it "alterative, nervine, scorbi-facient, anti-periodic, and anæsthetic." I have used it in but two cases as yet. The first case was that of a young lady, who was a sufferer at the menstrual period from neuralgia, attended by a deficient amount of secretion for the first twenty-four hours. Such was the distress, that each recurring time was anticipated with great dread. The general health being uniformly good, no measures had ever been adopted excepting palliation.

During the last spring she had an attack of what is termed here, bilious fever, from which recovery was slow. There was general debility, want of appetite, and insomnia. Not being able to obtain the pil. iodoform et ferri. I took a drachm of iodoform, made sixty pills, and gave one before each meal, with fifteen drops liq. ferri. iod.

Since commencing the above remedies, there have passed three periods, with almost entire freedom from pain, and a free secretion from the first hour. The general health is also very much improved. Less than two drachms have been taken, but its use is still continued.

The iron was discontinued after the general health improved, as its use was not deemed essential.

I have given the pil. iodoform et ferri to another individual, who, from

the first establishment of the menstrual function, had been a sufferer from dysmenorrhœa. In this case, the next period after commencing the remedy, much less suffering was experienced.

The second, was attended with considerable pain for a few hours, and, on the whole, there seems to be some improvement. It is intended to give the medicine a fair trial, before deciding fully as to its merits.

The pathological conditions in which iodoform is particularly indicated, are the neuralgic, and perhaps, passively, congestion.

In this locality, *neuralgia* may be considered endemic. There is a tendency to it in every organ to which there may incidentally be any determination of morbid influence.

There are many cases attended with partial amenorrhœa, where the distress will be very great.

A few months' irregularity induces congestion, and perhaps, inflammation; or, is succeeded by menorrhagia in those of full habit, and leucorrhœa in the anæmic. It is hoped that those who may have prescribed iodoform in dysmenorrhœa or any form of disease, will report the result of their observations.—*November 15, 1870.*—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, December, 1870.

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN ASTHMA.

Much has been said and written in past years upon the merits and demerits of the iodide of potassium in asthma.

And of late, I notice, a writer has been treating the subject, and regards its application as more especially appropriate to bronchial asthma; he relates a case in which he exhibited the drug in large and oft repeated doses, with complete success, for that time, but failed most signally with this treatment in a future attack of the same patient, soon after.

Now sir, I am not disposed to criticise that writer's views of the disease, or his practice, for he is evidently on the right track and in good season.

But I think he is in too much hurry, and treats the patient with too large doses, and repeats them too often; he, in fact, feeds his patient with a powerful and potent remedy too rapidly, faster than the system

can appropriate it; and hence the absorbents and secernents are to a certain extent overcharged, surfeited, and perhaps for a time paralyzed; and in the future have either no desire for that kind of stimulus, or are unable to receive it.

It has been my painful privilege and experience to know much of this disease for a period of over fifty years, by personal acquaintance. I inherit it as an heir-loom from two generations before me; and by that same law of transmission, it outcrops again in the one which follows me. I have met the disease in most or all of its phases, in my own person and in the sick room, and have treated it in all its forms; the dry, the humid, the spasmodic or bronchial, and the more fearful emphysema. I say more fearful, because the conditions of this disease are such as to render it of greater duration, equally or more distressing, and affording no hopes of cure, and but little prospect of relief.

I, too, have often administered this drug, and like the writer alluded to, have met with varied effects, but think I have seldom found a case where it lost its effect so absolutely or so soon, although such instances may occur.

In my own case, although constitutional, it is bronchial, spasmodic and nervous. I have used the remedy for years, to be counted by tens, perhaps by twenties. And yet it has never failed me, and is thus far ever sure to be a remedy of inestimable value on every occasion of attack; but I never give such large doses, seldom more than five grains a day, and that at bedtime. And if threatened or attacked, this quantity taken in the evening usually insures me a night of comfortable rest, with ability to resume my daily labor on the following day. But I do not repeat the dose unless the attack is also repeated; and here, it seems to me, is the cause of the success in one case and of the failure in the other, for, surely, I have ever found it a most valuable remedy for myself and others thus affected. Nor do I find its benefits apply to the bronchial form only, but regard it as an available and reliable remedy in other forms also, and in none have I found it to fail completely, unless in that peculiar form or stage when the diaphragm is seemingly flexed and immovable like a sheet of iron across the trunk, and the patient in a gasping state.

Here the iodide does fail, and here, if ether or chloroform affords no relief, remedies are of little use.—J. P. WHITTEMORE, M. D., *Haverhill, November, 1870.*—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, December, 1870.

ON THE USE OF BROMIDE OF LITHIUM.

BY S. WEIR MITCHELL, M. D.

In the experiments upon various bromides to ascertain whether or not any of them were free from the evil of causing destructive skin ulcers, I was struck with the fact that the bromide of lithium seemed to cause a more rapid and intense sleeplessness than the other bromides.

This observation induced me to use it since then in certain obstinate cases, and to test it comparatively with the bromides of sodium, potassium, and ammonium. These results I propose to call to the attention of the College. Up to the time I mention, bromide of lithium was not used in medicine, so far as I am aware, but was extensively employed in certain photographic processes, for which it was manufactured perfectly pure.

This salt is very deliquescent, and were on this account better given in solution. As I shall have to point out it has seemed to me to act more rapidly than the other bromides, and this may be due to its easy solubility, which is ordinarily associated with a high osmotic equivalent. There has been some tendency of late to prefer the bromide of sodium to that of potassium as a therapeutic agent, because of its possessing a larger amount of bromine. If any reliance is to be placed on this test we should acquire a new reason for placing bromide of lithium above both of them. The percentage is nearly as follows:—

In bromide of potassium there is about 66 per cent. of bromine; in bromide of sodium 78 per cent., and in bromide of lithium nearly 92 per cent.

I think the taste of the new salt rather less unpleasant than that of bromide of potassium, and rather more disagreeable than that of the sodium or ammonium salt.

The price of the lithium salt is at least four times that of the other bromides, but I am told that upon its larger use this difficulty will disappear.

My reasons, in brief, for bringing this new agent to the notice of the Fellows, are these:—

That it has seemed to me to act efficiently in some cases of epilepsy where bromide of potassium has failed.

That it is thus efficient in lesser doses than the salt just named.

That as an hypnotic, it is superior to the potassium salt and to the other bromides. To support these propositions, I select the following cases from my note-book.

J. T., æt. 14, had, at twelve years of age, attacks of *petit mal*, which in two years became interspersed with convulsions, sometimes at night, sometimes in the day, but usually violent. The case originated in gastric disorder, which has been very unmanageable. A year ago, he began to take bromide of potassium in doses rising from ten to thirty grains thrice a day with various treatment, addressed to the stomachial conditions. At first the bromide controlled the fits, but gradually they returned despite its increase to two drachms daily, while at the same time he suffered from insomnia. In this condition he returned to this city, where I again tried the bromide which had been abandoned in despair, he having a fit every three or four days and numerous little attacks. Here, as at his own home, bromide lessened the number of attacks one-half, but no more, and the insomnia remained scarcely altered.

After trying valerianate of quinia and belladonna, I resorted to bromide of lithium, of which he took, at first ten and finally twenty grains *ter in die* with the effect of improving his condition, at once giving him sound sleep, and lessening both forms of fit, so that he had light convulsions only once in two weeks, and the *petit mal* not more than once in two days. Owing to the cost of the lithia salt, I returned, after two months, to the bromide of potassium, with at that time a result quite as good as that given by the bromide of lithium.

About eleven weeks ago, I determined to treat the gastric disorder by milk cure. Under this combination, his attacks have ceased there, having been none in eleven weeks: the stomach being comfortable the *petit mal* altogether absent, and the memory, previously much impaired, having become rapidly better; so that the lad writes: "Life seems to me now quite a different thing from what it used to be." Of course I do not look upon him as cured, but I am glad to quote his case as one of the instances, which I hope to lay fully before the Fellows, of success attained in epilepsy by this combination of milk cure and bromides, where the latter alone had failed.

Eliz. C., æt. 19. Has had daily an epileptic fit on rising in the morning, or more rarely after breakfast. Anxious to compare the two salts, I gave her first bromide of potassium in doses of 25 grains thrice a day. This amount controlled the fits, which never returned unless she lessened the dose to fifteen grains, when she would have an occasional fit; in some weeks one, in others two. Ten grains of bromide of lithium thrice a day absolutely controlled the attacks, so that in two months there were none. I could not trace in this case any sufficient cause of disease.

It is hardly necessary to take up the time of the College with the familiar details of epileptic cases. I have at present under my care a case of *petit mal* without convulsions, recurring twenty or more times a day. The patient is positive that eight grains of bromide of lithium exercise a better influence than triple that amount of the potassium bromide.

A brother of this patient has had for years fits of epilepsy, which occur about once in ten days; he has a gastric aura, in the shape of slight nausea, which in most instances precedes the fit by nearly an hour. I used to order for this a mustard emetic, which sometimes broke the attack. He himself discovered, however, that twenty grains of bromide of lithium taken at once, in addition to his regular use of this salt, or of bromide of potassium, would at least two out of three times cut short the trouble. Now this result must have been due to some more sure or more speedy action of this salt, because the other bromides in like doses failed to so affect him. He is now doing remarkably well under the added use of milk cure.

I have now under my care Mrs. P., the wife of a physician. She has had for a year ringing in the left ear—some feebleness in the right leg; rarely a tendency to aphasia, and more or less insomnia; with noises and pain referred to the left temporal region. Bromide of potassium has proved of much service, but as it began lately to lose its power, I substituted, without her knowledge, ten grain doses of the lithia salt for twenty grain doses of the bromide of potassium. She remarked next day that the old medicine was doing her good again, and in fact the improvement in sleeping and in other respects was most distinct.

Miss V., an intelligent woman, after using the bromide of potassium for continued headache and insomnia, was placed on fifteen grain doses of the lithium salt. She is of opinion that the relief which follows always with her each dose of either salt, is much more rapid when bromide of lithium has been used, and that she sleeps sounder under its use.

Ch. P., teacher, married, æt. 44; a victim of over-work, and various forms of trouble. Is incapable of any prolonged mental exertion, which flushes his face, causes intense pain between the shoulders, and insomnia. Has also frequent nocturnal emissions. Finding that the bromide of potassium, in twenty grain doses, thrice daily, was of great service, I requested him to use in place of it the lithium salt, and to observe the comparative results. He thinks the latter more unpleasant to take, but is of opinion that its power to bring sleep is greater, and indeed complains that it makes him feel too drowsy during the day.

It is needless to add to this evidence—and whether I am right or wrong in concluding that in bromide of lithium we have an addition of value to our list of bromides only larger future evidence can decide ; I have long hesitated to lay the case before my medical brethren, and now trust that what I have here said may at least be thought sufficient to justify me in publishing my belief.—*Quarterly Summary of the Transactions of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia*, May, 1870.

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

INTUSSUSCEPTION IN AN INFANT CURED BY INFLATION OF THE BOWEL.—W. S., aged six months, admitted into Guy's Hospital March 28, 1870. The child appeared in perfect health until yesterday afternoon about four o'clock, when, while sucking a crust of bread, he suddenly screamed out, fainted, and became cold. The mother took him to a doctor, who gave him a powder, which made him very sick. He continued in great pain, and cried incessantly. At three o'clock this morning he passed a quantity of clotted blood per rectum, and this continued to run from him until he was admitted into the hospital, at 12 o'clock. The last fecal evacuation took place at noon the previous day.

On admission, the child was seen to be well grown, but face pale, and had a generally collapsed appearance. On examining his abdomen, a lump was distinctly felt to the left and above the umbilicus, which hardened when pressed upon. On passing the finger up the rectum, a round projection could be felt about four inches up, with a circular orifice in the centre. The finger, when withdrawn, was covered with blood. The case being thus clearly one of intussusception, Dr. Wilks ordered inflation of the bowel by means of a bellows. Chloroform was given, and an enema tube passed into the rectum, the other end being attached to the bellows. The attempt to inflate was at first unsuccessful, owing to the large size of the rectum ; but by increasing the width of the tube by wrapping a strip of lint around it, the colon was well inflated, and then the lump gradually went back until it quite disappeared. A drop of (tr. ?) opium was ordered in a drachm of dill water, and the breast to be given sparingly.

On the following day, March 29th, no lump could be felt. The child

had been sick several times, and nothing had passed per rectum. To repeat the medicine.

March 30th, child very irritable; apparently much tenderness over abdomen, especially toward the right side. Occasionally sick. Passed a little blood, but no fæces.

31st. Evidently better. Had a liquid evacuation with no blood, and sucks well.

April 1st. Passed a natural motion, and altogether better.

2d. Child apparently well, and taken out by the mother, who was somewhat discontented at the operation performed on him, as she never could be made to realize the severity of the case.

He remained well until the 10th, when he was brought to the hospital, having had fresh bleeding, and the lump could again be felt. The mother would not allow the child to be again taken in for the purpose of a renewal of the method which had been before so successful, but took him away for the purpose of procuring some physic for him; and no more was heard of the case.—*Lancet*.—*Boston Med. and Surgical Journal*, December, 1870.

CARBOLIC ACID.—“ *What should be dispensed when saturated solution of carbolic acid is prescribed?* ”

Our correspondent propounds a query which, doubtless, has caused frequent annoyance to every careful apothecary, and one which must do so until physicians obtain a more exact knowledge of the article in question, and become more explicit in their prescriptions. Two medicinal solutions of carbolic acid are in common use, and, what is lamentable, under the same title, viz: *saturated solution of carbolic acid*, while in composition they are diametrically opposed. This arises from a peculiarity in the solubility of the acid itself. The crystallized article may be perfectly liquified by the addition of five-per cent. of water, in connection with a gentle heat, when it forms what is frequently called a saturated solution, or more properly *liquified carbolic acid*. This fluid is not capable of indefinite solution in water; indeed the limits of its solubility, at an average temperature, is about five parts in one hundred of water. Here, therefore, we have two solutions known as saturated; one containing five per cent. *water*, and one five per cent. *acid*. And some physicians wish the former, while many desire the latter to be dispensed under the same title!

We can only advise that in the absence of positive knowledge to the contrary, the weak solution, containing five per cent. acid, should

always be supplied under the name of saturated solution. This procedure could only entail an error on the safe side, while a different interpretation might be followed by disastrous consequences.—*Pharmacist.*

Another saturated solution, containing fifty per cent. of the acid, is made by mixing twenty-five parts each by weight, of distilled water and alcohol (rectified), and fifty of carbolic acid in crystals. This I have been in the habit of using for the past two years as the sat. sol. of the acid, invariably writing, however, a prescription in full, that neither of the above solutions be substituted.—*Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal*, June, 1870.

BELLADONNA IN THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.—**DR. B. KELLY**, of Dublin, recommends very highly the use of belladonna in treating enteric fever. He does not prescribe it until the prominent symptoms are fully developed. If the patient be an adult, his dose is from twenty to twenty-five drops of the officinal tincture of the British Pharmacopœia every four hours, but must be varied to suit ages and constitutions. He says, "It completely changes the whole character and outward manifestation of the disease. Delirium, coma and subsultus quickly vanish, and are succeeded by calmness and clearness of intellect, by natural sleep, and complete control of all the voluntary muscles. Diarrhœa is checked, and healthy, consistent evacuations are established." He gives its most remarkable power as seen in the suddenness with which patients recover their intellectual faculties, and the full control of the muscles. In stopping its use it is necessary to do so gradually, to prevent serious consequences. All stimulants he interdicts, in every form and shape, while the patient is under the treatment of belladonna. Care must also be exercised that the patient does not get around too soon, which they are very much inclined to do while under its magical influence, and thus occasion a relapse.—*Med. Indep.*—*Chicago Medical Journal*, January, 1871.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC CONSTIPATION.—**THE REV. DAVID BELL**, M. D., of Yorkshire, England, urges the advisability of combining tonics with aperients in cases of irregular and slow action of the intestinal canal, and states that he has for many years found the following prescription uniformly efficacious in overcoming habitual constipation:

R Aloes Socotrin., Ext. Hyosciami.....	ââ gr. xii.
Quinin. Disulph.....	gr. vi.
Ferri Sulph.....	gr. iv.

M. bene et fiat massa in pilulas xii æquales dividenda.

One of these pills, taken in the afternoon from four to six o'clock, will cause a formed natural motion the next morning, without pain. The proportion of aloes may in some cases be reduced, to assimilate its action to that of nature. Its supposed influence in causing or aggravating hæmorrhoids has not been found by the author in the use of the above combination.—*Med. Gazette.*—*Chicago Medical Journal*, January, 1871.

CARBONATE OF AMMONIA IN RUBEOLEA.—Dr. A. D. BOGGS (*Galveston Med. Jour.*,) writes that he has successfully treated, during the past winter and spring, nineteen cases of measles with carbonate of ammonia. The ages of the patient were as follows:—Under 10 years, 5 cases; between 10 and 15 years, 5 cases; between 15 and 25, 5 cases; between 25 and 40 years, 2 cases; over 40 years, 2 cases.

In every case the ammonia was administered in simple solution, in doses varying from two to ten grains, every two, three, or four hours, according to the age of the patient and severity of attack. In not a single case was there any of the usual sequæ of this affection, and in all the recovery was rapid and uninterrupted.

The injunction of Dr. Erasmus Wilson was carried out fully, viz:

"It is important, in the administration of ammonia, that it should be given alone; that nothing should be permitted in the diet of the patient that could neutralize its effects, such as acid drinks and fruits."—*Med. Record*, January, 1871.

TINCTURE OF IRON IN ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—Dr. J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS, reports in the *British Medical Journal*, eight cases of acute rheumatism successfully treated by the tinc. ferri chloridi. The pain was relieved very rapidly and convalescence speedily established. In some of the cases the heart was implicated. The quantity given was 50 or 60 drops every six hours.—*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, December, 1870.

CARB. AMMONIA IN PNEUMONITIS.—Dr. A. PATTON, of Vincennes, Ind., reports in the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, for October, 309 cases of severe and well-marked pneumonitis treated by himself and others with carb. of ammonia of which only 8 died, or 1 in 38, cases. He gives 5 to ten grains every two hours, night and day, from the commencement of the attack. In some instances blisters and quinia were also employed.—*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dec., 1870.

MEANS OF DISTINGUISHING REAL FROM APPARENT DEATH.—Dr. LABORDE communicated to the French Academy of Medicine (July 26, 1870) an interesting memoir on some of the physical phenomena of life, and on their application to distinguishing real from apparent death. He states that if a polished steel needle be inserted to a sufficient depth into the muscles of an apparently dead subject, and allowed to remain, in generally a short time it loses its polish and becomes oxidized; whilst this oxidation does not occur when the needle is introduced into a dead subject, if the needle be allowed to remain even as long as an hour. This absence of oxidation, with concomitant phenomena, is, according to Dr. L., a constant sign of real death.—*L'Union Medicale*.—*Chicago Medical Journal*, January, 1871.

CROUP AND CUBEBS.—Of eight cases of angina treated with cubebs, seven recovered and one died. Thirty-four cases of croup were treated with this drug; thirteen recovered—three without tracheotomy, and ten after the operation had been performed. In twenty of the unsuccessful cases, tracheotomy was resorted to. The patients were from sixteen months to nine years old. Only six were seen in the beginning of the second stage; all these were saved. In twenty-seven cases, the operation was performed immediately after entering. Cubebs was given after the operation apparently with better effect than before.—*Gazette des Hospitiaux and Ind. Jour. of Medicine*.—*Chicago Medical Journal*, January, 1871.

EMBRICATION FOR INFLAMMATION OF BREASTS.

R	Fluid-Extract of Aconite.....	One half ounce.
	“ “ Phytolacca.....	One ounce.
	Iodide Potassium.....	One drachm.
	Warm Water.....	One pint.

Wet linen compresses, and apply constantly.

No application with which I am acquainted will so surely prevent tumors of the mammæ from taking on the suppuration process. Even if suppuration have taken place, it resolves the indurations and relieves pain.—*Med. Bulletin*.—*Chicago Med. Jour.*, January, 1871.

CITRIC ACID IN AFTER-PAINS.—Dr. J. B. CHAGNON, in the *Canada Medical Journal* for May, recommends citric acid for the pains following labor, and declares that it has never failed in his hands. He gives five grains in two or three ounces of water every five hours. It acts as a nervine, and as a preventive of inflammation.—*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, August, 1870.

HEMORRHOIDS.—Suppositories containing one-tenth of iodoform are used by Hillairet against indurated hemorrhoids. In a short time the tumors soften and wither away.—*American Practitioner*, September, 1870.

Pharmacy,

DIPHTHERIA was treated by the late Dr. Magruder, of Washington, as it is claimed, with most marked success, on the following plan:

The throat was rubbed frequently, externally, as soon as the swelling and soreness commenced, with spirits of turpentine. Internally, this:

℞ Potassæ chlorat.,.....	3 j.
Tinct. guaiaci comp.,.....	3 ij.
Tinct. cinchonæ,.....	3 ij.
Mellis,.....	℥ ss.
Aq.,.....	℥ iijss.

M.—S. A tablespoonful every three hours. Twenty drops of the muriated tinct. of iron, an hour and a half after each dose.

It is said that 82 out of 85 cases were successfully treated.—*Chicago Medical Journal*, November, 1869.

COMMON CATARRH is treated by Dr. Scudder, thus:

℞ Tinct. verat.,.....	3 ss.
Tinct. gelsemini,.....	3 j.
Aq.,.....	℥ iv.

M.—S. A teaspoonful every one or two hours.

The same gentleman treats neuralgia in feeble persons, or where there is a feeble circulation, with the following, used alternately:

℞ Tinct. aconit. rad.,.....	gtt. x.
Tinct. belladonnæ,.....	gtt. xx.
Aq.,.....	℥ iv.

M.

℞ Tinct. nucis. vomic.,.....	3 j.
Aq.,.....	℥ iv.

M.—S. A teaspoonful every one or two hours.—*Chicago Medical Journal*, November, 1869.

IN THE DIARRHŒA OF CHILDREN, he thinks it is particularly useful in arresting fermentation, etc. For a child from a year to eighteen months of age he prescribes :

R	Pepsin.....	3 ss—3 j.
	Bismuthi subnit.,.....	᠑ ss.
	Pulv. opi.,.....	gr. 1-5-1-2.
	Acid. carbol. c.,.....	gr. 1-8-1-2.
	Quiniæ sulph.,.....	gr. j-ij.

M.—In chart. x divid.

S.—One every two or four hours. In some cases he substitutes bromid. potassii for the opium.—*Chicago Med. Jour.* Nov., 1869.

EXTERNAL USE OF DIGITALIS AS A DIURETIC.—DR. BROWN has succeeded in re-establishing the renal function in six cases of calculus of the kidney, when all other measures had been tried without effect, by the external use of digitalis in the form of poultices made either by throwing the fresh leaves into boiling water, or by incorporating the concentrated tincture with linseed meal. A rapid fall of the pulse follows the application. The cataplasms made with the leaves are especially to be recommended, and they should be renewed every six hours till the lowering of the pulse warns us to desist.—*Dublin Quart. Journal Med. Sci.*, August 1869.—*Rev. de Ther.*, Dec., 1868.

Which reminds us of old-time usages. Here are a couple of ancient prescriptions for the production of diuresis :

R	Tinct. Digital., Tinct. Scillæ.....	
	Linim. Sapon. and Opi.,.....	ää ʒ ij.
	Aq. Ammon., Ol. Camph.,.....	ää ʒ ss.
	Tinct. Cantharid. Fort.,.....	3 ij.

M.—S. To be rubbed in freely, over the surface, three times a day.

R	Liniment. Volatil.,.....	partes ij.
	Tinct. Cantharid., Tinct. Digital.,.....	
	Tinct. Colchici, Tinct. Iodin.,.....	ää p. j.

M.—S. Apply over half the body, three times a day.—*Chicago Medical Journal*, November, 1869.

AN EXCELLENT LOCAL PALLIATIVE IN PSORIASIS :—

R	Simple cerate.....	
	Glycerine.. ..	aa ʒ i.

Phosphorus..... grs. iii. to vi. M.
The best local application in lepra.

PAPULÆ.—Lichen and prurigo.

Very excellent formulæ in this form are the following:

℞ Glycerine.....
Simple cerate..... aa $\frac{3}{4}$ i.
Iodoform..... 3 iss. M.

Apply to the part, either by painting it or on linen.

℞ Tinct. lobelia.....
Tinct. digitalis..... aa $\frac{3}{4}$ ss.
Liquor Ammonia acetatis..... $\frac{3}{4}$ iii.
Hydrocyanic acid, dil.,..... 3 ii.
Rose water..... $\frac{3}{4}$ v. M.

Apply to the affected part.

℞ Sulphite sodæ..... $\frac{3}{4}$ ss.
Hydrocyanic acid, dil.,..... 3 iss.
Liquor potassæ..... $\frac{3}{4}$ iii.
Glycerine..... $\frac{3}{4}$ ii.
Aqua, dest.,..... $\frac{3}{4}$ viii. M.

Use as above.

PUSTULÆ.—Ecthyma and impetigo.

Good formulæ are the following:

℞ Cerate simplex..... 3 i.
Glycerine..... $\frac{3}{4}$ ss.
Sulphite sodæ..... 3 ii.
Carbolic acid..... grs. xxv.
Iodide potass.,..... 3 i. M.—

Eclectic Medical Journal of Pennsylvania, Jan., and Feb. 1871.

A USEFUL PRESCRIPTION for the exhibition of the salts of morphia, in cases where they would, given singly, cause nausea and vomiting, is the following:

℞ Morph. sulph.,..... gr. j.
Ext. aconite rad. alc.,..... gr. ij.
Ext. belladonnæ, alc.,..... gr. iij.
Ext. hyoscyamæ..... gr. iv. M.

Ft. pil. No. viij. Signa; one every half hour, till relief of pain.—
Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal, June, 1870.

HÆMORRHOIDS.—In recent cases of hæmorrhoids, Prof. Nathan R. Smith, of Baltimore, advocates this formula:

R Sulphur lot..... ʒj.
 Fol. sennæ pulv..... ʒj.
 Ol. scænic..... gtt. xx.

M. ut f. pulv. S. Give a heaping teaspoonful every other night. The parts must be bathed three or four times a day with cold water, and especially after stool.—*Nashville Journal of Med. and Surgery*, January, 1871.

Editorial.

BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.

GRANULATED.

Chemically Pure.

The *Echo Medical et Pharmaceutique* has a communication from M. Adrien upon Bromide of Potassium. A careful analysis of ten different samples made by him gave varying proportions of from 68.80 to 91.60 per cent. of Bromide of Potassium, the difference of course showing the relative amount of impurity, or adulteration. The same trouble exists here, we have of late given especial attention to the subject, and examination of various lots on the market has shown in some cases an adulteration of 33 per cent. It is not surprising that many physicians have ceased to rely upon it as a therapeutic agent, finding that they could not accomplish the same results as when it was first introduced. In view of these facts we have decided to offer it in the granulated form as the most convenient for administration, and would call the attention of the profession to it. We shall submit each quantity made to all known chemical tests to ensure absolute purity, and when put up, the label on the bottle shall state that it is "Chemically Pure"—and we guarantee that is so.

T. & Co.

IODO-BROMIDE OF CALCIUM, COMPOUND.

Component Parts.—Bromine, Iodine, Chlorine, Calcium, Magnesium, Iron, Sodium and Potassium.

Medical Properties and Action.—Alterative, resolvent, disinfectant, stimulant, tonic, and in its pure state somewhat caustic and irritant.

Properly diluted it becomes readily absorbed, increasing the action of the

secreting organs, and if sufficiently long continued appears to act specifically upon the lymphatic glandular system, causing the reduction or absorption of glandular and other tumors, and also exhibiting its alterative influence, whereby a certain type of diseases becomes amenable to its use.

Applied in its pure state, it produces intense local action, and often causes a powerful sensation of pricking and smarting. It should be diluted according to the sensibility of the parts to which it is applied. For ordinary use, one part to four parts of water or diluted alcohol is a sufficient dilution.

We take pleasure in presenting the Profession this new and valuable combination, confident a trial only is necessary to prove its efficiency and promptness of action to combat the pathological conditions on which depend a very large number of the cutaneous diseases, and to support its claims as a topic superior to any other which has heretofore been placed in the hands of the physician. An examination of the elementary constituents of this combination is sufficient guarantee of its potency over the many morbid affections to which the skin and mucous surfaces are liable and perhaps the strongest recommendation that can be urged for its use. And it is hoped the Profession will give it an impartial trial. In our hands it has seldom disappointed, though we have prescribed it in diversified cases. We have seen cases of ordinary *itch* yield to it by *one application*, even after an obstinate resistance of months to the usual remedies, and no less gratifying results have we seen follow its application in *Psoriasis, Herpes, Prurigo, Scabies, Gangrene, Scrofulous Sores, Sloughing Sores*. It possesses also a *superior efficacy in Chronic Rheumatism and will sometimes give almost immediate relief*. A weak solution will be found advisable and efficacious in removing *pimples on the face*.

SCABIES OR ITCH may be cured most rapidly by Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound. Even the inveterate ones have been completely cured by this without any annoyance or interruption of the patient's ordinary business. A few applications will generally be sufficient to destroy the parasite. It gives prompt relief from itching.

Several cases in practice have been reported which were successfully treated by this agent alone; one particularly interesting case, that of a child, male, aged fourteen years, of a scrofulous diathesis, who had been under medical treatment for over a year without any noticeable improvement, which was promptly cured by the following:

R Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound,..... ℥ i.

Water..... ℥ iv. M.

Sponge parts effected, twice daily. Suspend if it produce too much irritation—to renew if necessary—graduating strength to suit.

This method of cleansing the system of the scabies is evidently a great improvement upon the use of disgusting sulphur-ointment, or the more dangerous arsenic and quicksilver preparations.

CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.—A. M., male, aged fifty years, had been afflicted with rheumatism in the hip joints for several years; at times completely disabled; had gone through the whole list of drugs without any good effect whatever; was almost instantly relieved by the Iodo Bromide of Calcium Compound, and now relies upon this topic to banish pain whenever it recurs.

PSORIASIS.—The treatment of this, as well as other affections of the skin, will be regulated by the age and constitution of the patient, the stage of the disease, and its complications. In the way of local treatment, the Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound will answer best, diluted with water, and in such proportions as the circumstances of the case may direct.

At the outset of this disease, and in direct proportion to the degree of irritation present, remedies should be emollient in character.

ECZEMA.—The cure of this affection is to be attained by constitutional and local treatment. When the disease has passed into the chronic stage, *irritability or sluggishness*, which calls for stimulant remedies, a solution of Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound, properly diluted, will be found eminently useful.

Winona, Minnesota, December 8th, 1870.

Prof. CHARLES A. LEE, M. D., Peekskill, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—The accompanying analysis, as far as it was possible to make it from the specimen given, was made by authority of the Minnesota State Medical Society, under the following circumstances:

Two men, while at work in their field (high-land, but I am told the same plant is found along the water-courses near by) found what they supposed to be Parsnips; and taking them home, had them cooked and ate freely of them, and a few hours thereafter sickened and died.

The Coroner supposing the men to have died from the effect of what they ate, sent a specimen of the plant to the State Medical Society, during its semi-annual meeting in this city June 14th, 1870. But the specimen being imperfect, the committee appointed to examine it, would not arrive at a satisfactory analysis, therefore send the result of their investigation to you, for your opinion as to what genus and species it most nearly corresponds. Is the Sium ever found without involucre? If so, would not the analysis prove it to be the Sium Latifolium, or Water Parsnip?

The Committee had no trouble in tracing the specimen given to the order *Umbellifera*, but are in doubt as to the genus and species, thinking the evidence divided between the Water Parsnip and the Water Hemlock (*Cicuta*). But if the Water Hemlock and the Spotted Cowbane (*Cicuta* Mandrake) are the same, as given by Alphonso Wood, in his Botany, there is a less resemblance to the latter, than the former, in the entire absence of the purpled streaked stem, and the leaves destitute of stipules.

1st Question: Is the Water Parsnip ever found without involucre?

2d Question: Is the Water Hemlock the *Cicuta* Maculata; and is the stem ever wanting in the purple streaks; and are the leaves ever destitute of stipules?

ANALYSIS OF THE PLANT.

1st. A flowering plant; leaves net-veined; stigmas present; corolla with distinct petals. An herb; leaves cauline; destitute of stipules; stamens few and definite; flowers regular, or nearly so; ovary adherent to the calyx; flowers five parted, compound umbels; styles two; forming a two-partable fruit. Thus tracing it to the order *Umbellifera*.

2d. The inner surface of the seeds flat; agreeing with the suborder *Orthosperm*.

3d. Margin of calyx five-toothed; petals obcordate, with an inflexed point; fruit nearly oval; carpels with five obtusish ribs; carpophore two-parted; leaves compound and pinnately divided, but *not like those of the Acacia*; Umbels perfect, *but no involucre*. Flowers white; proving it to be of the same genus.

4th. Stem three feet high, angular, sulcate and hollow; leaflets oblong lanceolate, acutely serrate, acuminate; four to six inches long and one to two broad, in about four pairs, with an odd one at the top. Flower calyx teeth elongated; petiols embracing the stem; umbels large, with many-flowered rays; flowers small and white. Thus closing the analysis with the species.

DESCRIPTION OF ROOT.

The root accompanying the plant was about four inches long by three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and of a slightly sweetish, pungent taste. The plant and root were wilted, not only having been transplanted for about four weeks, but removed a second time, from both earth and moisture for a few days. I am told that there were originally three roots to the plant given me.

A speedy answer is most respectfully requested, as we are expected to report to the Society at its Annual Session in St. Paul the first Tuesday in February 1871.

Yours most truly,

A. B. STUART, M. D.

Chairman of Committee.

Peekskill, N. Y., December 20th, 1870.

To A. B. STUART, M. D., Chairman of Committee of the Minnesota State Medical Society.

Dear Sir:—Your favor of the 8th inst., was duly received, and I hasten to answer your queries.

1st. Question: "*Is the Water Parsnip ever found without involucre?*"

1. I would answer this question in the affirmative. In one-half of the specimens, if gathered late in the season no involucre will be found; when present, it may be *few-leaved*, or *many-leaved*. The involucre in the specimens I have gathered, are many leaved, generally 5 or 6; short narrow, acute bracts.

2. In reply to your second question, I would answer: the *Water Hemlock* is the *Cicuta Maculata*, it is also called *Spotted Cowbane* *Musquash-root*, and *Beaver poison*. The stem is usually streaked with purple; but not invariably, and my specimens have the petioles dilated at the base, into long, abrupt, clasping stipules, and you will find this to be their general character.

From your description of an analysis of the plant, there can be no doubt, I think, that it is the *Cicuta Maculata*. The remains of the specimen you sent me, leads me to the same conclusion. Our only indigenous plant that very closely resembles it is the *Water Parsnip*, *Sium Latifolium*, but instead of having a smooth striate hollow stem, *streaked with purple*, the latter has an *angular, sulcate smooth stem*, and only half the height of the *Cicuta*, (3 feet) It is well characterized by the presence of *seven deep furrowed and prominent angles*. Besides the leaves differ in the two plants. In the *Sium*, the leaflets or segments are from 4 lines to half an inch long, and 1 to 2 lines broad; equally serrate, in about 4 pairs, while in the *Cicuta*, the leaflets are only 1 to 3 lines in length, and from a quarter to three-quarters of a line wide, and more finely serrate. The *umbels*, too, in the *Cicuta* are numerous, naked; 2 to 4 lines broad, while in the *Sium*, the umbels are large, with many flowered rays; it always has an *involucre* and too the involucre are generally *many-leaved*. Both have white flowers. Moreover we have no evidence that the root of the *Sium* is very poisonous, while that of the *Cicuta* is, probably, the most fatal acrid-narcotic poison in our whole indigenous Botany. I have known repeated instances, where children have been fatally poisoned by eating the root of this plant. Your description of the root also corresponds to that of the *Cicuta*, and not to that of the *Sium*. The only remedy for this poison is prompt evacuation of the stomach.

I remain yours, respectfully,

CHAS. A. LEE, M. D.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

Journal of Materia Medica

DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Vol. X.]

MARCH, 1871.

[No. 3.

Communications.

PIPER CUBEBA.

(*Cubebs.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

This plant belongs to the Natural Order Piperacæ.

In the sexual, or artificial system, it will be found in class *Diandria* and in order *Trigynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx none; corol none; berry 1-seeded; spadix simple, slender, covered with little flowering-bearing scales. Filaments none, anthers two, opposite; at the root of the germ, roundish.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Perennial, stem climbing; *leaves* stalked, smooth, obliquely ovate, or oblong, veined, acute, the upper ones more oblong-ovate, with rounded base, and smaller; those of the male plant 5-ribbed; leaves on the pistillate plant 5 to 9-ribbed; spike solitary; opposite the leaves; Flowers diœcious; ovary sessile; stigmas three; sessile; fruit bacciferous; seeds roundish, with mealy albumen.

HABITAT.—Island of Java.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND ACTION.

Cubebs, in doses of gr. 10 gr. 40, is carminative and stimulant, and improves the tone of the organs of digestion. In doses of gr. 180 to oz. one, it causes griping and purging, with much febrile action. It occasionally induces, says Waring, headache, a nettle-like eruption, and in rare instances partial paralysis. It acts specifically (says W.) upon the genito-urinary organs, and increases the quantity of urine, to which it communicates a peculiar aromatic odor. Its operation is not limited to these organs; it being a stimulant of the mucous surfaces generally.

HISTORY.—An English Author has described sixty species of piper, most of which belong to the Western Hemisphere. But one or two species north of the Gulf of Mexico, can be found in North America. Piper lepostachyon is found in some of the Southern States; a small annual, herbaceous plant, growing to the height of from six to twelve inches. Dr. Stillé observes, that the Greeks and Romans do not appear to have been acquainted with this medicine. Several of the Arabian writers mention this agent as possessing diuretic properties, and as good to cleanse the kidneys and bladder of sand and gravel. Matthioli thought this drug was different from the capsicum of Galen. It was used in Europe during the middle ages, as a stimulant. Subsequently it was employed in the treatment of leucorrhœa, sterility, and impotence.

Acosta, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, has a very interesting account of cubebs, in which he says that the Oriental physicians use them to comfort the stomach, to resolve the enlarged and oppressed spleen, to expel flatulence, and to stimulate the womb; but that the principle object for which they employ them, and that in large quantities, is to promote the venereal appetite. In the East Indies it has long been employed as a popular cure for gonorrhœa. From thence it was introduced into Europe, in 1818, by two English Surgeons, Mr. Adams and Mr. Crawford. Pereira states, that this agent was used in England more than five-hundred years ago, for in 1305 Edward I, granted to the corporation of London the power of levying a toll of one farthing a pound on this article in its passage over London bridge. Dr. S.—says:—"But it was employed only as a condiment."

THERAPEUTIC USES.

Gonorrhœa.—Dr. Waring observes, in gonorrhœa cubeba proves eminently serviceable.

Of fifty cases treated by Mr. Broughton * forty-five were cured by cubeba, at periods varying from two to twenty-one days; in three, it failed to afford relief. Some constitutions are said to be peculiarly susceptible of its action; and small doses, observes Dr. W., under such circumstances, produce great constitutional disturbance, and an aggravation of the symptoms. Its action is rendered more certain by the addition of sodæ carb., gr. x to each dose. (W). Alum is stated greatly to increase its efficacy, † thus:

R. Cubebæ oz. ij. alum oz. ss. M. divide in pulv. ix. sumat. j. ter in die. The average duration of treatment under this formula was from six to eight days. Waring says that cases which resist the use of copaiba generally yield rapidly under the use of cubeba, and *vice versa*. The oil of cubeba (gutt. x—xii.) may be substituted for the pepper, and is best given in conjunction with copaiba.

Orchitis, says Dr. Waring, occasionally occurs under the use of this remedy, but he considers it doubtful whether this event can be fairly attributed to the medicine. Conium given in conjunction, will be found a very valuable addition. Good extract of conium in doses of two or three grains, three times a day, will be found a valuable adjuvant, in the treatment of this malady.

Pereira recommends that cubeba should be given in as large doses as the stomach can bear, in the earlier part of the disease; for experience has fully proved that in proportion to the length of time gonorrhœa has existed, the less amenable is it to the influence of this remedy. Crawford, as quoted by Stillé, found that it cured the great majority of cases within three weeks, and was most successful in the mildest and most recent cases. Jeffrey, Delpech, and Velpeau sustain the views of Crawford. Sir Astley Cooper, as quoted by Stillé, was one of the first to employ cubeba in the acute as well as in the chronic forms of the disease, and spoke highly of its effects, remarking that when the inflammation

* Medico. Cir. Trans., vol. xii.

† Med. Chir. Rev. vol., 68, p. 514.

is just beginning, the medicine often succeeds in removing it in a very short time. Ricord regards cubebs as hardly inferior to copaiba in the treatment of gonorrhœa.

Biddle's *Materia Medica* p. 264:—"In small doses, it is absorbed, and acts as a gentle excitant to the vascular system, with a very decided stimulant action on the mucous surfaces, particularly those of the urino-genital apparatus; it also frequently proves diuretic. It is chiefly used in the treatment of gonorrhœa, and should be given in the early stage of the disease."

Gleet.—Dr. Waring speaks favorably of the use of this remedy in the treatment of gleet. In this malady, alum, acetate of zinc, or potassii iodidum, will be found serviceable, alternated with the use of cubebs.

Leucorrhœa.—Dr. Orr is quoted by Waring as having employed this medicine in several cases of leucorrhœa, and reports favorably of its efficacy. In some cases it will be found advantageous to associate it with some of the salts of iron; especially in those associated with anæmia. Drs. Traill and Crane * give their testimony in favor of this drug, in the treatment of this affection. Dr. King alludes to the use of cubebs, as having been employed successfully in leucorrhœa.

Simple Urethritis of Women.—Prof. Trousseau observes that simple urethritis is a disease which is tolerably frequent in young girls, but more frequent in married women, and it is characterized by a frequent desire to make water, with vesical tenesmus lasting some minutes afterwards.

He has known patients obliged to go to the water-closet ten or fifteen times in an hour and after having passed a few drops of urine they went on straining for a minute or more, so imperious was the sensation of desiring to evacuate the bladder, which, however, was perfectly empty. In some cases it would appear that the inflammation is propagated to the mucous membrane of the bladder. Trousseau has never found this disease to assume a serious form, and it is seldom accompanied with fever, but there are often pains in the loins and hypogastrium analogous to those observed in cystitis and metritis. Urethritis is rather common

* Edinb., Medical and Surgical Journal, xxi. 304.

after lying-in, after miscarriage, or at the period of menstruation, and in some cases it appears to be connected with an herpetic diathesis. Whatever may be the exact form of this disease, cubebs are successfully employed in its removal. Trousseau has employed this treatment for more than twenty years, and the use of cubebs was suggested by its efficiency in venereal blennorrhagia. In simple urethritis it is not necessary to give large doses of cubebs, and in general the powder may be prescribed in the dose of 3 ss. to 3 j. twice a day at meals. It should be continued several days and as long as the symptoms last; when improvement begins the cubebs are given only once a day for a week, and in the following week, if the improvement continues, the cubebs are given only once every second day.

Vaginitis.—M. Priorry, as quoted by Waring, in a case of vaginitis, which had resisted all other remedies for nine months, employed an injection of the infusion of cubebs 3 j.—aq. oj.) and administered the powder internally. Under this treatment a speedy cure was effected.

Chronic Cystitis.—Broide recommends, in chronic cystitis small doses—fifteen or twenty grains—to be given three times a day. He found that they palliated the symptoms. * Given with caution, in small doses, it proves, says Waring, very useful, not only where the chronic inflammation is the primary disease, but where it occurs as a secondary affection, the result of a calculus in the bladder. In cystirrhœa, Sir B. Broide also found small doses of cubebs very beneficial.

Infantile Enuresis.—Dr. Deiters found cubebs very effectual in the treatment of infantile enuresis. For infants, he says a few grains are sufficient, but older children require half a teaspoonful twice or thrice daily. Cases that do not respond to the administration of this drug should be allowed in conjunction one or two drops of the fluid extract of belladonna.

Spermatorrhœa.—Dr. Deiters, as quoted by Waring found this agent very effectual in checking nocturnal emissions in spermatorrhœa.

Chronic Inflammation of the Prostate Gland.—Sir B. Broide,

* London Med. Gaz., I. 300.

as quoted by Waring, found much benefit from cubebs, in doses of gr. xx. thrice daily, in chronic inflammation of the prostate gland. It seems to act as a gentle stimulant to the parts. (W).

Hæmorrhoids or Piles.—Waring observes, p. 255:—"In hæmorrhoids or piles, the internal use of cubebs has been found useful in allaying the severity of the symptoms. It forms an efficacious substitute for Piper Nigrum, and probably acts in the same manner."

Chronic Bronchitis and other Pulmonary Affections.—Dr. W. remarks:—"In chronic bronchitis and other pulmonary affections, attended with profuse secretion and much debility of constitution cubebs in small and often repeated doses, has a very beneficial effect in checking the excessive secretions, and giving a gentle stimulus to the system."

Dr. Stillé observes, vol. ii. p. 693:—"Cubebs may also be employed in chronic pulmonary catarrh. Indeed, owing to their stimulant action upon the stomach, they may become more serviceable than copaiba in cases of the disease attended with feeble digestion. In *chronic rheumatism* they have also been found beneficial."

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract of cubebs	- - -	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ drams.
" " " " etherial,	" "	" 1 to 2 drams.
Solid Extract	- - -	" 2 to 20 grains.
Pills of Ext. cub., and cop.,	- - -	" 2 grains each.
" " " " " "	" "	cit of iron, 3 grains each.
" " " " " "	" "	Alum - 3 grains each.
" " " " " "	" "	rhatany & iron 3 grains each.
Ext. Cubebs	- - -	2 grains each.

TINCTURE OF CUBEBS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	two ounces.
Diluted Alcohol	- - -	one pint.

Dose—One to two drams.

MIXTURE OF CUBEBS AND ERGOT.

Fluid Extract of Cubebs	- - -	five drams.
" " " " Ergot	- - -	one-and-a-half drams.
Cinnamon water	- - -	Half a dram.
Powdered sugar	- - -	one dram.
Dose—One dram. In gonorrhœa, gleet, leucorrhœa, etc.		

SCUTELLARIA LATERIFLORA.

(Sculcap.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

In the Natural Order, this plant belongs to Labiateæ, of Lindley and Jussieu.

Some locate it in Natural Order Lamiacæ. In the Linnean artificial classification, it will be found in Class *Didynamia*, and in Order *Gymnospermia*.

POPULAR NAMES.—Sculcap, blue-sculcap, side-flowering-sculcap and hood-wort.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx bell-form, finely dividing at the base; lips entire, the upper one with a helmet-form appendage (or cap) on the back, deciduous; corol bilabiate, upper lip vaulted, lower one dilated, convex; tube bent, exsert.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Flowers blue, root perennial, plant branching, glabrous; leaves long-petioled, ovate, toothed; cauline ones sub-cordate; racemes lateral, leafy. Attains a height of from one to two feet. Blossoms in June and July.

HABITAT.—United States.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Tonic, nervine, and anti-spasmodic.

PART USED.—Stem and leaves.

HISTORY.—*Scutellaria*, Lat. *scutellum*, a little shield, from the shape of the lid of the calyx; or from *scutella* a small vessel, on account of the figure of the calyx.

But a few years ago, this plant was highly esteemed as an antidote to canine madness, and kept a secret for some time. Dr. Vandever as quoted by Edwards and Vavasour in 1829, acquired extensive popularity by the success he obtained from the exhibition of this remedy, and it was currently reported that he had prevented upwards of three-hundred persons from becoming mad. E. and V. observe:—"From the high reputation, therefore, of scull-cap, perhaps surpassing that of any other remedy, practitioners ought to resort to the use of this plant on every occasion which may offer itself, either in relieving mankind of this awful malady, or in arresting the devastation among the brute creation."

Youatt was a firm believer in its anti-hydrophobic virtues, and considered this agent as a remedy enjoying the reputation for some time, as the only reliable one, in the treatment of this malady. At the present time, scutellaria is considered nearly worthless in this appalling disease. Drs. Ariel Hunton and C. H. Cleveland, of Vermont, are quoted by Dr. Porcher, as speaking in strong terms of its efficacy as a nervine. Dr. Cleveland says that he prefers it to all other nervines or anti-spasmodics except where an immediate effect is desirable.

Notwithstanding the utter failure of this agent to cure hydrophobia, it must be conceded to be one of our most valuable nervines and anti-spasmodics.

Dr. Lee remarks:—"From what experience we have had in the use of this plant, we have formed a very favorable opinion of its virtues as an anti-spasmodic, quieting the nervous system, and at the same time promoting the appetite and giving tone to the system generally." Its active principle, scutellarin, is considered a very valuable accession to our materia medica.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Chorea.—Prof. Paine observes:—"All forms of chorea are most promptly relieved by the proper use of this drug; in fact, it may be correctly pronounced a specific for these affections. I have tested it in every form of this affection; and if used persistently and judiciously, in combination with such adjunct remedies as the constitution may indicate, it manifests a most wonderful power." He adds:—"In chorea, one grain combined with one or two of carbonate of iron, every two or three hours, baths, friction, and well regulated diet, most promptly relieves; and where it is judiciously administered, results in a permanent cure." Dr. Lee remarks, that it is said to have been used successfully in chorea, and some forms of convulsion.

Pereira's *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* by Wood, p. 493, treating on scutellaria lateriflora, says:—"More recently it has been strongly recommended as a nervine and anti-spasmodic in cases of nervous exhaustion, chorea, hysteria, and allied diseases. Its action is said not to be immediate, but to follow its persistent use." He recommends giving it in infusion, which should be made of the strength of two ounces to the pint, and drank *ad*

habitum. Dr. King observes, that this agent has proved especially useful in chorea.

Dr. Cleaveland, of Vermont, as quoted by Porcher, p. 488, speaks in strong terms of its efficacy in this malady. He also speaks favorably of its concentrated principle, scutellarine, and finds very happy effects from it in quieting nervous disorders. He prefers this plant to all other nervines or anti-spasmodics, in cases where you can wait for its effect. Other remedies should often be alternated with this in the treatment of this affection, such as zinci sulphas, zinci oxidum, ferri peroxidum, shower bath, &c. Often blisters to the spine, have given marked relief, and ought not to be overlooked in the treatment of this malady.

Hysteria.—Prof. Paine tells us that in hysteria, scutellarin is of vast importance. Dr. Lee has known scutellaria to prove useful in hysteria and painful menstruation. It will be found useful in some cases to associate with this agent, other remedies, such as camphor, cannabis indica, assafoetida, tinct. lavendulæ, valerian, &c.

Neuralgia.—Drs. Hunton and Cleaveland are quoted by Dr. Porcher, as having used this plant in the treatment of neuralgia, and found it highly advantageous.

Scutellarin, its active principle, Prof. Paine says, has been very extensively used as a nervine, to allay general nervous irritability; and he has frequently prescribed, where there is a want of sleep or restlessness manifested on the part of the patient, one or two grains of the scutellarin at bed-time, combined with one or two grains of the prussiate of iron, and found it to manifest quite as soothing an influence as opium or morphia. Prof. Lee mentions that scutellaria has been recommended in this malady. Dr. King observes that this agent has been especially useful in neuralgia. Cases that do not respond favorably to the employment of this remedy, should be allowed hyoscyamus or belladonna in combination with it. If the patient be anæmic some of the ferruginous preparations should be associated with the treatment.

Epilepsy.—Prof. Paine says, he has cured some of the most obstinate cases of epilepsy, by giving four or five grains of scutellarin, with equal parts of carbonate iron, every two or three hours during the day, followed by occasional purges. Stramonium has a good record in the treatment of epilepsy and will be found

eminently useful in combination with scutellarin and iron. Potassii bromidum, within a few years, has been extensively used in this malady, it may be alternated with scutellarin and stramonium, or belladonna.

Prof. Paine, who has had experience with the action of scutellarin in various diseases, says it is of great virtue in fevers, and other affections where the gray nerve tissue has undergone partial degeneration and disintegration, or where the nerve force is impaired by this peculiar change. He adds:—"Thus, in subsultus, tendinum, following fevers in delirium tremens, and other spasmodic affections, as epilepsy, hysteria, etc., etc., this remedy combined with iron, is of vast importance. It is of great value as a tonic to the nervous system, where there is a general nervous debility, either from uterine disease, or other constant irritation to the nervous system. I have used this remedy extensively in all female diseases, hepatic difficulties, and other chronic affections that influence the nervous system, and by uniting it with iron, have found it to afford most prompt relief." Dr. P's method of administration of this drug in the low forms of fevers, is to compound one or two grains with one grain of hypophosphite of soda, and give a powder four or five times a day. In hysteria, epilepsy, catalepsy, and other spasmodic affections of that class, he gives it in stronger doses.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dram.
" "	Scullcap comp.,	" $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dram.
Scutellarin	- - -	" 2 to 6 grains.
Pills of Scutellarin	- - -	" 1 grain each.

INFUSION OF SCULLCAP.

Fluid Extract	- - - - -	one ounce.
Water	- - - - -	one pint.

In doses of a wine-glassful three times a day, it has entirely cured tic-doloureux.

SCULLCAP COMPOUND.

Compounded of scullcap, ladies' slipper, hop, and lettuce.

CHELONE GLABRA.

(Balmony.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Scrophulariaceæ of Lindley and Jussieu.

According to the Linnean classification this plant belongs to class *Didynamia*, and to order *Angiospermia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 5-cleft or 5-sepalled, 3-bracted; corol ringent, inflated; the upper lip emarginate-obtuse, under lip slightly 3-cleft; the rudiment of a smooth filament between, and shorter than the two tallest stamens; anthers wooly; capsule 2-celled, 2-valved; seeds with membranaceous margins.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Flowers varying in color, from white to red, blossoms during July and August, root perennial. Leaves opposite, lance-oblong, acuminate, serrate; spikes terminal, dense-flowered. Var. *alba* leaves sub-sessile; flowers white. Var. *purpurea*, leaves short-petioled; flowers purple.

Variety *lanceolata*, leaves lanceolate, acuminate, serrate, sessile, pubescent beneath; segments of the calyx oblong. Some authors make a species *obliqua*, which they say, has all the leaves opposite, and that the *glabra* has the lower leaves alternate. (North American Botany).

COMMON NAMES.—Balmony and snakehead. Joscelyn in his New England Rarities called it the humming bird tree.

HABITAT.—North America.

PART USED.—Stem and leaves.

PROPERTIES.—Tonic, cathartic, anthelmintic and alterative.

HISTORY.—In popular practice, this remedy has long had a reputation for the relief of chronic hepatic diseases, for the removal of worms, and for the cure of many cutaneous affections. It imparts its medical properties to both water and alcohol. It contains an active principle, called chelonin. Like most of the concentrated medicines, chelonin produces the most satisfactory effects, when thoroughly triturated with sugar. In dram doses, Dr. Paine says that chelonin produces nausea, vomiting and purging; although in a few cases, he informs us that he has, given two or three drams,

without producing any other effect than slight nausea and mild purging. He says in one-half to one grain doses, given two or three times a day, it increases the appetite and promotes digestion, without producing any other sensible impression. Dr. P. adds:—"In disease the power of chelonin is still more marked than in health. In all cases where the dynamic power of the stomach is interfered with, either by some specific disorder, or by some remote affection, chelonin manifests a most specific power to restore the stomach to its original condition.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Dyspepsia.—Prof. Lee observes:—"As a tonic, it is well adapted to cases of atonic dyspepsia and convalescence from acute diseases." Dr. King alludes to its use in this malady. Dr. Paine says:—"In cases of dyspepsia, where the indigestion is dependent upon a feeble condition of the muscles, mucous membrane, and glands of the stomach, chelonin is most valuable. It may be administered in conjunction with bismuth, pepsine, or with other alteratives, such as mercury, hydrocyanic acid, or conium.

Dr. P. observes, that in cases where patients are laboring under what they denominate a bilious habit, but which in reality is imperfect digestion, chelonin given in one or two grain doses not only removes the present difficulty, but entirely restores the digestive organs to their natural condition.

Phthisis.—Dr. Paine says that in chronic affections, such as phthisis, scrofula, and other debilitating diseases dependent upon imperfect digestion and mal-assimilation, chelonin is of eminent service. In numbers of cases of phthisis, he remarks, that he has seen patients improve most rapidly under the influence of chelonin, in combination with iron and cod liver oil. He mentions the case of a lady who came under his notice, where cod liver oil could not be tolerated; he advised it to be used in conjunction with chelonin. The effect, he says, was most salutary, as the chelonin enabled the stomach to digest and appropriate the oil to the nutrition of the body.

Prof. Lee remarks, that chelonin exerts a tonic influence upon the digestive organs, and an alterative effect upon the system generally. Hence it is a highly useful remedy, he says, in many

chronic affections, where a conjoint depurative and tonic indication is present. Where great emaciation and debility exist, two grains of baptisin, added to the chelonin and cod liver oil, will be found highly beneficial.

Diabetes.—The only way in which a remedy can be thoroughly tested, and its merits settled, is by giving publicity to its employment by medical men, irrespective of any predilection in regard to medical system of practice. Something can be gleaned useful, from the experience of all. Facts will remain facts, whatever may be the origin of their discovery.

Prof. W. Paine observes, that in a case of diabetes he gave chelonin, in combination with helonin, (the concentrated principle of *Helonias Dioica*), and although the case had been under the most approved Allopathic treatment for a long time without benefit, these remedies afforded almost immediate relief. He says the remedy had not been used ten days before the quantity of saccharine matter in the urine had perceptibly diminished. It resulted in entire restoration to health. Too much stress must not be given to the report of a single case.

Worms.—In domestic practice this agent is frequently employed as a vermifuge. Many writers speak in terms of high commendation of this agent for the removal of worms from the intestinal canal. Dr. Paine says he has frequently observed the almost specific effect of this remedy as an anthelmintic. In the case of a girl affected with chorea, where a large variety of remedies had failed to produce a cure, he gave chelonin. It expelled from the alimentary tract a large number of ascarides lumbricoides, which produced a cure of the chorea. He states that he has, also, combined chelonin with santonin, with the most happy effect. He recommends as a good method of preparing it, to add the desired quantity of the medicine to simple syrup, and triturate until a complete mixture is formed. As a vermifuge he has frequently added thirty grains of chelonin, and five grains of santonine to four ounces of neutralizing mixture, triturating them until thoroughly mixed. Dose, one teaspoonful of the mixture every two or three hours until it acts upon the bowels.

Two grains of chelonin in combination with three grains of calomel will be found a very efficient remedy for this purpose.

Diseases of the Skin.—As a remedy of much value, in diseases of the skin, chelonin has, for a long time, been used quite successfully, both internally and externally. The author has frequently witnessed its beneficial effect in the treatment of impetigo. Used in conjunction with *Solanum Dulcamara*, very many cutaneous affections will very readily be removed. There are many remedies highly vaunted for the treatment of skin diseases, far inferior to chelone glabra.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	Dose, 1 dram.
Chelonin	- - - -	" 1 to 2 grains.

TINCTURE OF BALMONY.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	one ounce.
Diluted Alcohol	- - - -	eight ounces.
Dose—Three to two drams.		

SYRUP OF BALMONY.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	half ounce.
Syrup	- - - -	twelve ounces.
Dose—Three to five drams.		

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.

BY J. G. M. GOSS, A. M., M. D., L. L. D., SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA.

By the request of many inquirers I will again give the properties of *Gelseminum Sempervirens*, or Yellow Jessamine. I am asked, "where it can be obtained pure?" It can be obtained from Tilden & Co., New Lebanon, N. Y., and from Eclectic Drug Houses generally. I am asked "what preparation is best?" The saturated tincture, from the fresh bark of the root, or the *Gelseminin* from the same, are the most reliable preparations. "What are its effects on the system?" It is an active and very prompt antispasmodic. As an article of that class, there are no superiors in the *Materia Medica*, especially to the motor system. It has an affinity for the uterine and generative organs, also for the rectum. It has a marked influence over the entire muscular system. It is

one of our best remedies in rigid os uteri, so much so, as to have lead some practitioners to the belief that it was an active parturient. Its effects on the organs of generation in the male sex are very prompt. Given with the Bromide of Potassium or Ammonium, it acts anti-aphrodisiacally, removing the congestion of the parts, and thereby aiding in relieving spermatorrhoea. Its effects upon the mucous coat of the rectum renders it one of our best remedies in dysentery and stricture of the rectum. In dysentery, I combine it with Opium and Rhubarb, and find these articles sufficient to relieve the gravest forms of the disease. In gonorrhoea, I find gelseminum one of our best remedies, especially where the inflammation is of a high grade.

In ophthalmia, it is one of the most reliable internal remedies, relieving the congestion and controlling the inflammatory excitement promptly. It is nervine, and as such, has a good influence over all that class of diseases that originate from excessive sensitiveness of the nervous system, as remittent fever, neuralgia, hysteria and many others. It is a superior remedy in tetanus. In pneumonia, combined with Aconite and Sanguinaria, it acts very beneficially. In typhoid fever, if commenced early in the disease, it has the most controlling influence over it of any remedy yet known to the medical profession. In the past Summer, I treated a large number of cases of typhoid fever, and used Gelseminum, Aconite and Belladonna, with the most complete success; only losing a single case out of all I treated; while others around me, who treated it with the common remedies for the disease, lost a large per cent. of their cases. In remittent fever, I combine it with Quinia and the Prussiate of Iron, and Cathartics, when they are called for in the case. It is a remedy of great activity, and consequently, should be given with due caution. I use the saturated tincture of the bark of the root, in doses from 20 to 60 gtt.s., or Gelseminin in doses of $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 gr. The saturated tincture I make from the green root, by covering the bark of the root in diluted Alcohol or Whisky. The Solid Extract, or the Fluid Extract by Tilden & Co., are reliable, and so are all their concentrated remedies.

PSOAS ABSCESS WITH RECOVERY.

BY S. W. EDWINS, M. D., OF BAINBRIDGE, IND.

[The patient was a stout man, Mr. R. Limberger, æt. 45 years. Dr. Edwins saw him after he had been bedfast a number of weeks, and gives the treatment as follows:]

To relieve his suffering I put him on half drachm doses of the hydrate of chloral, repeated every six or eight hours, until he got some rest, which he did on the night of the 24th of April, being the first sleep he had had for two weeks. There being a general state of hyperæsthesia, I put him on the following prescription:

R	Fowler's solution.....	3	ij.
	Fl. ext. belladonna.....	3	ij.
	Fl. ext. aconite.....	3	j.
	Comp. spts. lavender.....	3	ijj.
	Cinnamon water.....	3	iv. M.

S.—One teaspoonful every four to six hours.

I continued him on this treatment until he became perfectly quiet, with the exception of the local trouble, which I treated with blisters and poultices.

On the 29th of April I detected a slight fluctuation in the inguinal region, and poulticed more vigorously than before, at the same time dropping the sedative, and putting him on quinine and camphor, every three hours, with Huxham's tr. of bark three times a day.

May 2d. I opened the abscess with an abscess lancet, making a free opening, and evacuating about four pints of pus. The amount led me for a while to think that there was probably caries of the vertebræ, but in a few days I was glad to find myself mistaken. This pus was imperfectly formed; some of it greenish, thin and watery; other portions of a rusty, brownish color, mixed with blood, and portions of the cancellated structure of the vertebræ.

It contained flocculi, which in my opinion consisted of portions of the pyogenic membrane enveloping the *sinus* of the abscess along its course through the sheath of the psoas magnus muscle.

May 3d. Found him doing remarkably well; fever, slight; appetite returning. I evacuated about three pints of pus during this day. I now put him on iodoform et ferri pill, one three times a day, with directions to increase until he took six a day. I also gave him Huxham's tincture of bark and a generous diet of animal food, together with one bottle of ale per day.

May 4th. Mr. L. very much prostrated with night sweats; thinks he had a chill. I continued the above treatment and introduced a slippery elm tent some nine and a half inches up the sinus. I continued this plan of treatment until the amount of pus decreased to about three ounces per day.

I then stopped the iodoform et. ferri pill, when he at once commenced to get worse and the amount of pus to increase. I again put him on the pill, and kept him on it until the 25th day of June. Seeing then that the amount of pus neither increased or diminished, I resorted to a rather novel, and as far as I know, original method, of drying up the discharge. I took a silver female catheter; running a strip of slippery elm bark through the rings, I introduced it into the wound, the bark holding it from going in too far so as to cause difficulty in removing it. I then inserted a rubber syringe in the catheter, filled with a solution of carbolic acid, and washed the sinus through very near its entire extent.

Immediately after injecting the solution I would withdraw the piston of the syringe, thereby withdrawing all the solution that I had previously introduced.

I continued the use of the catheter and syringe every morning, increasing the strength of the solution of carbolic acid, until the morning of the 4th of July, at which time the discharge had entirely ceased, and I dismissed him from my care.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, December, 1870.

CASE OF CHOLERA INFANTUM WITH ANURIA FOR FIVE DAYS. RECOVERY.

BY C. W. STEVENS, M. D., CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

A child, aged one year, was taken suddenly, on Oct. 1st, 1870, with vomiting and diarrhoea. In the vomita were pieces of corned beef, which the mother had given to "harden her child." Oct. 4th, I was sent for, after the usual household remedies had been exhausted. Found the primary symptoms of Cheyne's hydrancephaloid disease. Not even a teaspoonful of water could be retained in the stomach, and there was an incessant diarrhoea of greenish mucus. Continual worrying. Ordered:

Acetat. plumbi.....	gr. v.
Acid acetic.....	
Tinct. opii.....	ää gutt. v.
Glycerin.....	3 iss.
Aqua destill.,.....	3 i. M.

One teaspoonful after vomiting. One teaspoonful of cold barley-water was to be taken occasionally, and an enema of one tablespoonful of mutton broth every two hours.

Oct. 5th. Had rejected both the barley-water and the lead mixture, but retained the enemata. Ordered :

Hydrarg. chlorid. mitis.....	gr. i.
Pulv. opii.....	gr. ½.
Pulv. sacchari.....	gr. vii.

Chart. vi.

One powder to be taken after vomiting. To take the froth of the white of egg and brandy nog.

Oct. 6th. Second stage of spurious hydrocephalus—depressed fontanella, eyes sunken and rolled up, cold extremities, continual worrying, inability to rise from the cradle. Ordered hot bottles to feet and hot rum fatus to abdomen.

Oct. 7th. Has vomited only once or twice. Has passed no urine for two days. Ordered two drops of spts. of nit. ether in a teaspoonful of barley-water, every half hour.

Oct. 8th. Continued anuria. That it is suppression of urine as in cholera, and not simple retention, I assured myself by percussion. Ordered fomentations of hot cloths over the hypogastrium, and :

Fol. buchu.....	3 ij.
Sem. anisi.....	3 i.
Aqua.....	3 viij.

One tablespoonful of the infusion every four hours.

Oct. 9th. Stomach retains milk and water. Continued anuria. I gave at once six drops of paregoric, and ordered two drops to be given every half hour.

Oct. 10th. The baby passed water for the first time in about four hours from the first dose of the paregoric. From this moment the child began rapidly to mend. I should add that mutton broth, oysters, and brandy and egg, had been regularly continued every day. I am of opinion that the paregoric was the most efficient aid in causing micturition. I was led to use it from the utility of camphor and opium in retention of urine.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.* Dec., 1870.

ON SUBNITRATE OF BISMUTH IN CHOLERA-INFANTUM.

BY C. K. ALEXANDER, M. D.

Having noticed in the November number of the *American Practitioner* an article by Dr. Walling on the use of subnitrate of bismuth in the treatment of cholera infantum, I take pleasure in adding my testimony to the powers of this remedy in the bowel affections of children. I have not used the remedy in that stage of the disease in which Dr. Walling found it so beneficial. In the acute form of this affection, characterized by frequent vomiting and purging, I usually had but little trouble in controlling it in from six to twenty-four hours with this:

℞ Plumbi. acet.,.....	gr. x.
Morph. acet.,.....	gr. ss.
Aquæ destil.,.....	℥ j.
Syrup simpl.,.....	℥ ss. M.

Of this I gave to children from one to two years old a teaspoonful after each act of vomiting; or the following, which, though less generally efficient than the foregoing, I found to act promptly in some cases:

℞ Tr. opii.....	gtt. xv.
Potass. bicarb.,.....	gr. xxiv.
Syr. simpl.,.....	℥ ss.
Aquæ menth. pip.,.....	℥ j. M.

Dose as the other. I sometimes gave at intervals of four hours, and repeated it a few times, half a grain of calomel, a grain of aromatic powder, and two grains of bicarbonate of soda; but I am not sure that I saw any good from it.

In cases tending to collapse I used brandy, chloroform, quinine, coffee, and milk, with external warmth, sinapisms, etc. Where there was no disposition to collapse, the mother's milk was the only food allowed. Where the child was weaned, milk, to which lime-water was added, was given.

A certain proportion of these patients convalesced at once after the violence of the attack was subdued, and recovery was complete in a few days; while in a large number the disease showed a marked tendency to become chronic. Add to these cases those that were not seen until after they became chronic, constituting more than half of all that I saw, and we have the class in which the subnitrate of bismuth

seemed to possess such decided efficiency. In my hands it has contributed more in such cases to restore the normal condition of the mucous membrane of the alimentary tract than any other medicine that I have employed. Since I commenced its use I have relied on it mainly. In private practice and in the Western Dispensary I have seen and treated during the past season between thirty-five and forty cases, a majority of which, as before stated, were not seen until they had become chronic. In some the accession of the disease had been marked by acute vomiting and purging, while in others the condition had been developed gradually. Several had marked degree of emaciation and debility that seemed to render them hopeless.

Exclusive of the cases in which complete recovery followed the acute stage in from three to six days, I used the bismuth in every instance. It seemed to act beneficially alike in those that had been marked at the outset by severe vomiting and purging, in those that had been developed more gradually, in those in which the trouble seemed to be kept up by indigestion alone, and in those where inflammation of the mucous membrane existed. I gave the medicine usually as follows:

R Bismuth subnit.,.....	3 j.
Syr. zinzib.,.....	3 iij.
Tr. cinnam.,.....	3 j.
Tr. opii.....	gtt. xvijj.
Syr. acaciæ.....	3 j. M.

Of this mixture I ordered a teaspoonful four times daily to children from one to two years old. This was continued until all disposition to vomiting had disappeared, and the fecal dejections had diminished in frequency and become more consistent, which very generally obtained in from three days to a week, sometimes sooner. After this the medicine was given at longer intervals for a few days, and then discontinued. In some cases I added pepsin to the prescription with apparent benefit. Quinine was exhibited in those cases where a malarial element seemed to be present.

Alimentation entered as an important element into the treatment of the chronic cases, especially where emaciation and debility were marked. I did not confine these little sufferers to a milk diet; on the contrary, they were encouraged to take animal essences and soups, soft-boiled eggs, egg-nog, and even solid meats, ripe fruits, and vegetables were not inhibited when the patient showed a desire for them. Alcoholic stimulants were employed in proportion to the tendency to exhaustion.

The length of time that any of these patients were under treatment was not noted. With several of them the symptoms returned, and more than once I had to resume the use of the bismuth after it had been suspended. All recovered; some in ten days to two weeks, others requiring a longer time; and with a few, owing to frequent relapses consequent on the want of proper care, complete restoration to health was delayed for two or three months.—*Louisville, December.*
—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

SYNOPSIS OF A PAPER ON THE THERAPEUTIC POWER OF OXYGEN GAS.

BY T. D. CROTHERS, M. D., OF THE ALBANY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Oxygen has been used as a remedy, *in disease*, over a century. The difficulty of separating it from the air, and using it at the bedside of the patient, with its cost, have been obstacles preventing its introduction into general practice. Now, by the process of "Lessia du Motay," immense quantities can be procured, and sent to all parts of the country at trifling cost, in compressed cylinders. * * The phenomena of life is kept up by nutrition, and absorption of oxygen gas from the air. Oxygen sustains the most intimate relation to life. All other elements may be withdrawn and life will continue for a time; but, if oxygen is withheld, death follows. The secretion and excretion of every atom in the body depends upon the pressure of oxygen. The chemical action of oxygen, and the elements of food, is the ultimate cause of all vitality. Oxygen, and all the elements of food, are taken into the body, through the channel of the blood. This fluid not only carries oxygen to the ultimate parts of the body, but is renewed by it, and depends upon it for force and power. When we give iron it is to increase the absorbing power of the blood for oxygen. The true tonic is oxygen. When iron is given fresh air must be increased, or the remedy will fail. A condition of health depends more on the amount of oxygen absorbed than upon nutrition. The absorbing power of the blood may be impaired. Here Dr. Smith, of New York, suggests that, "a deficient absorbing power may be supplemented by an increased supply of the material absorbed." And this explains some of the remarkable results from oxygen, especially phthisis. Where the disease is both of the respiration and nutrition of the body, here oxygen not only aids the blood in bringing

material to be built up, but supplies the building up power, and lessens the increased action of the lungs to supply this want from the atmosphere. Experience does not confirm the theory that oxygen gas, in contact with inflamed and ulcerated surfaces, will increase inflammatory action. Dr. A. H. Smith, of New York, the highest authority on this subject, has recently given 1100 gallons of pure oxygen gas in 48 hours with no ill effects. The pulse, after inhaling oxygen, becomes steady and regular, often increased in frequency a few beats. The temperature decreases or remains the same. Oxygen is applicable, says Dr. Smith, to two class of diseases—one in which respiration is at fault, and the other in which both respiration and nutrition are defective.

Under the first class are included Asthma, Emphysema, Croup, Diphtheria, Capillary Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Poisoning by Opium. Astonishing cures have followed its administration in each of these diseases. In Asthma the paroxysm will be relieved, and a cure will follow in a very large per cent. of all cases. In Capillary Bronchitis and Emphysema its effects may be depended upon. In Pneumonia of a typhoid type, the results are very gratifying, (if carefully used by judicious men.) In a low grade of Fever, with anæmia, no remedy will act so promptly. In one case of my own, convalescence was established on the fourth day after the administration began. In a severe case of Asthma, which had resisted all medication for years, complete relief followed after two inhalations of 6 gallons each. In Dyspnoea it is almost a specific; and if of no value in any other disease, its value here would establish it as indispensable.

In the second class of diseases, in which both respiration and nutrition are defective, Phthisis stands first. In this disease oxygen is the most valuable remedy we possess. It has been used more in this disease than any other, with results exceeding all expectation. One case under my care, the patient gained fourteen pounds in fifty days, with a rapid convalescence, which are strong indications of a complete cure.

Dr. Birch, of London, believes that oxygen in Phthisis will rarely, if ever, fail, except in the last stages, and then it will afford the only chance for relief of many of the most distressing symptoms." Dr. A. H. Smith writes of the limited number of cases in which it has been used, also concerning our ignorance of its administration. The result, under these circumstances, indicate that it is superior to all other remedies in this disease. In dyspepsia, congestion of the liver,

menstrual irregularities, neuralgia, and in old scrofulous ulcers, its effects are astonishing. Oxygen does not in any way counter-indicate the use of other remedies. Its power is often increased by the addition of the usual remedies.

Thus far the experience of the few observers already in the field, indicate that, at no distant period, oxygen will be used by every practitioner. When we can regulate its supply in the sick room, as we now control the nourishment of the patient, and supply it in ill-ventilated apartments, factories and workshops, and counteract the deleterious effects of bad air wherever man is forced to be, all of which is attainable, then we may realize its value.—*Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, Dec., 1870.

GONORRHEA TREATED WITHOUT INJECTIONS.

BY A. GIVEN, M. D.

For the past twelve years I have been in the habit of treating gonorrhea in all its stages by medicines administered internally alone. In all that time, and in the management of a considerable number of cases, I have in no instance resorted to injections. I am aware that this is contrary to the practice of nine tenths of the profession; yet I venture the statement that my success in the treatment of this affection has been quite equal to that of those practitioners who conjoin local medication to that by the mouth. The majority of cases treated by the method I am now about to give recovered in from two to eight days, without any of the unpleasant symptoms which so often occur when injections are used.

Unless there is some special contra indication, I begin the treatment by clearing out the bowels. For this purpose I prefer a full dose of sulphate of magnesia. When the patient is thoroughly purged I direct the following: Balsam copaib., sweet spts. nitre, paregoric, ää one oz; tr. of veratrum, one dr.—M. A tea-spoonful every four or five hours until the acute symptoms abate, when a dose every eight hours for a few days, is nearly always sufficient to effect a cure. Locally the patient applies cloths wet with cold alum water constantly to the penis until pain and heat subside. I have found the foregoing treatment well adapted to both the acute and chronic stage, but most useful in the earlier periods of the affection. If there be contra-indications to the

use of copaiba in the inflammatory periods of gonorrhea, the veratrum viride seems to me to obviate them, while I believe it promotes the action of the balsam. It is a direct local sedative to the parts. In my hands it has seemed to control morbid conditions of the mucous membrane of the urethra and bladder as efficiently as it does that of the air-passages in acute bronchitis and pneumonia.

The following cases, selected from among many, will serve to illustrate the effect of this treatment.

CASE I. J. L., age twenty-two, applied with gonorrhea of eight days' standing. The penis was hot, swollen, tender, and painful. The discharge was profuse and purulent. Micturition was painful. After being well purged the patient took tea spoonful doses of the mixture four times a day. Within three days the *ardor urinæ* had subsided, and the discharge was much lessened. Forty-eight hours after the cure was complete.

CASE II. T., age thirty, contracted gonorrhea in March. He was subjected to many different modes of treatment, but without benefit. The discharge continued copious. In July he was ordered to take the mixture four times a day. In four days he was reported well. There has been no return of the disease.

Where, from any cause, orchitis has set in, I have been in the habit, where I have seen the cases early, of directing cold alum-water to be constantly applied over the testicles, and the veratrum mixture to be given in full doses. I have seen the best results follow this practice. Where the disease has existed for a longer time, and the testicle is much enlarged and very painful, I give the mixture; but use instead of the alum-water the following: belladonna leaves, aconite leaves, muriate of ammonia, aa one oz; hot water, a pint; mix. This to be constantly applied by means of cloths to the parts. I have often seen this treatment act almost like magic, *Louisville, December.—American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeuties and Materia Medica.

THE LOCAL TREATMENT OF SYPHILITIC MOUTH, NOSE, AND THROAT AFFECTIONS.—VON SIGMUND, who considers (*Practitioner*) the local treatment of the mouth and nose of the greatest importance in syphilis, recommends that these parts should be thoroughly cleaned morning

and evening by injections and gargles. In slight troubles he uses as a gargle and injection a solution of alum and extract of rhatany, in the proportion of about 1 to 100 of water, or of sulphate of zinc of half that strength. In cases of erosion of the membrane he applies concentrated solutions of nitrate of silver, or still better of perchloride of mercury, in the proportion of 18 parts to 400 of alcohol, painted over the affected part with a brush; the latter producing a less constringent effect upon the skin. After the application, which should be made before going to bed, a little finely carded cotton-wool should be placed on the part. A piece of blotting paper saturated with the solution may also be applied. He recommends the sublimate also in diseases of the gums. Where the tongue is affected attention should be paid to the projecting angles and rough edges of the teeth, which should either be removed or rendered smooth by covering them with caoutchouc.—*Wiener Med. Wochenschrift*.—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

TINCTURE OF ARNICA IN PNEUMONIA AND HEMOPTYSIS.—Mr. C. C. BALDING strongly advocates the use of tincture of arnica in these affections. He bases his advocacy upon a long and large experience of the beneficial results of this treatment. He gives ten minims once in three or four hours, or at longer intervals, according to the severity and stage of the disorder. He asserts that the effects will be unmistakable within forty-eight hours; one of the most remarkable of these is a marked reduction in the frequency of the pulse.

[As the dose of tincture of arnica—a medicine which is very rarely used internally, and probably is utterly useless save as an equivalent of alcohol as an external application—is from thirty to ninety minims, we look with some skepticism upon the extraordinary value which Mr. Balding attaches to it in pneumonia and in non-tuberculous hemoptysis, but certainly in such doses as he advises no harm can be done even if no good results.]—*Amer. Practitioner*, February, 1871.

NOCTURNAL INCONTINENCE OF URINE.—The immediate cause of incontinence is excess of irritability in the muscular fibres of the bladder; in a word, it is a neurosis. Wherever the resistance of the sphincter is not sufficiently powerful the urine will escape involuntarily. In paraplegia and paralysis this defective resistance is absolute; in nocturnal incontinence the deficiency is only relative.

Belladonna (or atropine), given in accordance with certain rules, is believed by our author to be almost an infallible remedy for in-

continence resulting from excessive irritability of the bladder. When the disease, instead of growing exclusively out of this condition of the muscular fibers of the organ, is associated with atony of the sphincter and of the entire bladder, belladonna is less useful. In these cases (in which the incontinence is both diurnal and nocturnal) the preparations of strychnine are indicated. Very few physicians in this country will be found to agree with M. Tréousseau as to the infallibility of belladonna in nocturnal incontinence. Many cases are cured by alkalies after both belladonna and strychnine have failed. Cubebs will cure others; mechanical means yet others; and lastly the chloral hydrate seems to be winning laurels in this troublesome field of medical practice.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

CARBONATE OF AMMONIA IN CATARRHAL PNEUMONIA OF NURSINGS.—Dr. STIERLIN considers (*ibid.*) that ammonia is almost a specific for this form of disease. He has treated about one hundred and fifty cases, of whom he has only lost seven, five of them having been seen for the first time after extensive atelectasis had been formed, and the disease already far advanced. He considers ammonia indicated whenever a young child is seized with catarrhal pneumonia, either after measles or bronchitis. If the patient is less than eight months old or feeble, the ammonia is given from the first, and alone, employing sinapisms also. But when the children are stronger or older, he gives them first an emetic, wraps them in a wet sheet, and applies ice over the chest, giving the carbonate of ammonia on the second or third day. This is immediately followed by a great alleviation of the symptoms, and rapid decrease of the fever. The action of the ammonia is in all such cases most remarkable, almost magical, and no preparation seems so useful as the carbonate, of which twenty grains may be dissolved in two ounces of fluid, and given in tea-spoonful doses every hour at first, subsequently every two hours; older children, of course, to have a larger dose than younger ones.—*Berliner Klinische Wochenschrift*.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.—Dr. E. P. HURD, Newburyport, Mass. (*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*), has been in the habit for some time of using a tincture of the root of the yellow jessamine, and believes that as a cardiac sedative we have not its equal in the whole range of the materia medica. It relieves in a marked manner the shortness of breath and palpitations of all forms of heart disease. He has seen more prompt and decided benefit from its use in chronic valvular

disease than from digitalis. The dose may be three drops of the saturated tincture every two, three, or four hours. The gelseminum is combined with Hoffman's anodyne and tincture of lavender, and is believed to have a specific effect on the vasco-motor nerves, stimulating them, and thus equalizing the circulation and lessening the labor of the heart. It also allays the nervous irritability, is surer than veratrum or prussic acid, and safer than digitalis.—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, February, 1871.

A PRESCRIPTION FOR EPILEPSY.—Dr. Brown Sequard is in the habit of using the following prescription:

R Potass. iodidi.....	3 j.
Potass. bromidi.....	℥ j.
Ammon. bromidi.....	3 iiss.
Potass bicarb.....	℥ ij.
Inf. columbæ.....	f. ℥ vi. M.

Sig. A teaspoonful before each meal and three teaspoonfuls at bedtime, with a little water. The medicine should be pushed until anæsthesia of the fauces is produced, and an acne-like eruption appears on the neck, face, shoulders, etc. Continue treatment for sixteen months after the convulsions have ceased, an occasional purgative being given.—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

QUININE HYPODERMICALLY IN AGUE.—G. Goddard Rogers, M. D., of London, reports six cases of ague treated by this method with only one failure. Dr. G. used a neutral sulphate of quinine which was perfectly soluble in distilled water alone. Thirty minims represented one grain, which was the amount used for each injection. In two of the cases reported a single grain was sufficient to cure the ague. The solution made with the neutral salt is unirritating. While Dr. G. does not believe that the hypodermic treatment will supersede the administration of arsenic and other medicines, he regards the injection of quinia, used early in uncomplicated ague, as being invaluable; but says it will often fail in chronic cases where hepatic or splenic complication exists.—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

TREATMENT OF CHILBLAINS.—Mr FERGUS calls attention to the value of sulphurous acid in the treatment of this affection. It should be applied either with a camel-hair brush, or better by means of a spray-producer. One application by the latter method usually effects a cure. The acid should be used pure, and he finds Clarke's spray-producer the best when both hands are free; Richardson's when only

one is so. A good wash for hands or feet affected with chilblains is sulphurous acid three parts, glycerine one part, and water one part. The acid is particularly useful in the irritating, tormenting stage of chilblains.—(See *Lancet*, November 26, 1870).—*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, February, 1871.

CARBOLIC ACID IN PRURITUS CUTANEUS.—Professor BINZ recently called attention to the value of the internal use of carbolic acid in prurigo and pruritus. He gives it in the form of pills, made up with extract of liquorice, containing at first one and a half grains of the acid, but increasing the dose to fifteen grains per diem. In the latter quantities it sometimes produces gastric disturbances, but which quickly subside when the medicine is given up.—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

MIASMATIC HEMATURIA.—Dr. JOHN W. PEAVY, of Barton, Miss., communicates the following: "I have found this very troublesome affection yield I think more rapidly under the use of nitro muriatic acid, morphine, and quinine than to any other means. In a few cases small, but very small, doses of calomel may be required. I think I have seen the chlorate of potash act well, when largely diluted, as a depurator."—*Amer. Pract.*, January, 1871.

TINCTURE OF IRON IN ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—Dr. J. RUSSELL REYNOLDS reports in the *British Medical Journal* eight cases of acute rheumatism successfully treated by the tinc. ferri chloridi. The pain was relieved very rapidly and convalescence speedily established. In some of the cases the heart was implicated. The quantity given was 50 or 60 drops every six hours.—*Chicago Medical Examiner*, January, 1871.

DIGITALIS IN UTERINE HEMORRHAGE.—In a discussion in the Boston Gynæcological Society (*Journal* for January), several members recommended digitalis in hemorrhage following abortion and parturition, as superior to any other remedy. The dose given is ten or fifteen drops every four hours. Cannabis was also highly lauded for the same purpose.—*Pacific Medical and Surgical Jour.*, Feb. 1871.

A CURE FOR HEMORRHOIDS.—Calomel applied (*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*) dry once or twice a day to tumid and tender hemorrhoids rarely fails to cure them in a few days.—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

A DIAGNOSTIC SIGN IN ACUTE ENTERITIS.—Dr. STOKES, of Dublin (*Cyclopedia of Practical Medicine*), first noticed the following sign characteristic of this disease: Toward the right of the umbilicus, it is not uncommon to find a marked pulsation, as if from throbbing of the abdominal aorta, or of its large branches.—*Medical Record*.—*Nashville Jour. of Med. and Surgery*, January, 1871.

CORNS ON THE FEET.—The following method of removing these troublesome growths is given in *La Sante*: Macerate the tender leaves of ivy in strong vinegar for eight or ten days, then apply them on the corns. This dressing should be applied twice a day, and in a few days the corns will be removed.—*Medical News*.—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, January, 1871.

TREATMENT OF INFANTILE DIARRHEA.—Dr. R. W. FOSS (*ibid.*) recommends the powder or mucilage of gum arabic, one part to three of water, in the diarrhea of infants. He adds a quarter of a grain of gray-powder to five grains of the powdered gum for cases in which the stools are green, or pure fluid and involuntary.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

REMEDY FOR CHAFES.—Two parts of powdered soap stone and one part of calomel, well rubbed together, are reported by the same writer to be the most elegant and effective dry application to the chafed skin of infants.—*American Practitioner*, February, 1871.

CROTON OIL IN SCARLATINAL DROPSY.—Dr. LIDDELL (*ibid.*) states that in cases of dropsy following scarlet fever he has obtained highly satisfactory results from one-eighth to a quarter of a drop of croton oil, repeated every two hours until free purgation is produced. He administers it daily until the dropsical symptoms subside.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

INDIAN HEMP IN MENORRHAGIA AND DYSMENORRHEA.—Dr. SILVER (*in the Medical Times and Gazette*) recommends twenty-five minim doses of the tincture of Indian Hemp in these affections. The remedy is especially adapted to the functional varieties of these diseases.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

CATHETERISM OF THE LARYNX.—Dr. Weinlecher, of Vienna, considers catheterism of the larynx, next to tracheotomy, the safest and most rational resort in cases of imminent suffocation from croup and diphtheria.

CURE FOR OBESITY.—Dr. GIBB, of London, recommends the use of bromide of ammonium to those who suffer from excess of fat. When taken in small doses it will absorb fat, and diminish the weight of the body with greater certainty than any other known remedy.—*Canada Medical Journal*.—*American Practitioner*, September, 1870.

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN CONSUMPTION.—Dr. BALTHAZAR FOSTER is much in favor of iodide of potassium in some cases of phthisis. He only prescribes it in doses of eighth to fifteen grains however, when either is not tolerated with cod-liver oil.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, August, 1870.

THE BEST TEST FOR ALBUMEN—Is said to be a mixture of equal volumes of acetic and carbolic acids. The test-tube must be shaken, so as to insure complete mixture.—*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, December, 1870.

Editorial.

Cancrum Oris.

R Cupri Sulphas.....	3 ss.
Pulv. Cinchona.....	3 i.
Aqua.....	3 i. M.

Apply with a Camels hair brush, three times a day.

I have tried this treatment for twenty years, never having it fail in my hands.

JOHN BURTON, M. D., Georgia, Ind.

Treatment of Intermittent Fever.

Dr. S. C. Lacey, Laceyville, Pa., sends us the following plan of treatment of intermittent fever.

R Gelseminum, Fld. Ext.....	
Liquor Potass. Arsenite.....	ss 3 i.

Dose—20 drops 3 times per day, letting the patient drink freely of hop tea during the interval, or not, as you see fit.

I have treated a large number of cases both East and West, and never knew a patient to have more than one chill after commencing the medicine.

I continue the medicine for one week, then I omit for five days, and then give two days, and then omit five days again. Do that way for four weeks and then discontinue the medicine.

I think there is nothing like Gelsemium in the treatment of Bilious Remittent Fever, also in Infantile Remittent. In Uterine Hemorrhage it is a valuable remedy. I have also found it efficacious at the commencement of labor and when the pains are inefficient, combined with fluid Ext. Ergot,

Diabetes.

Permit me to give you a formula or \mathcal{R} for Diabetes, which with me has become almost a specific in cases of long standing, and which has defied as it were, the skill of some of our most eminent physicians. During an extensive practice for the past thirty years, I have treated one-hundred and nine patients, with only three of failure.

\mathcal{R} Syr. of Plaitin..... $\frac{3}{4}$ iv.
 " " Yarrow (Ach. Mille.)..... $\frac{3}{4}$ iiiss.

Misc. Ozs. iv, once in four hours. This must be continued for thirty days, or until perfect convalescence take place. But as a general thing, the above time is sufficient. The food should be boiled beef-steak, and this should comprise the whole article of food except a very little bread, once a day. The bowels should be moved by a mild cathartic, 1 3 Rhei, at bed-time. If this should be anything new to you or the Medical Faculty, then you can make use of it in any way you think proper.

I am yours, &c.

F. S. TURNER, M. D., Rockland, Knox Co., Me.

On the Use of Iodoform in Syphilis.

BY DR. C. R. HARRIS, STAUNTON, VA.

Having a case of obstinate chancre in which was used the solid Argentum Nitratis, whilst under constitutional treatment by Iodid. Potassium, in doses of gr. xx, with 1-20th gr. Hydrargyri corrosive, *ter in die*, and seeing little if any improvement towards a healthy condition, we were induced to try the acid nitrate mercury, carbolic acid and glycerine, grs. 90 of the former to 1 oz. of the latter as a local application. The obstinate character of the disease resisted all local and constitutional treatment which had seldom if ever failed, when prescribed in the early stages. We resorted to the local application of Iodoform sprinkled in a dry powder over the chancre once per day. The result was a sudden change in the condition of the chancre, the patient improving rapidly.

I write to give the facts in this case hoping the Profession will try the remedy. The Iodoform is convenient of application, after sprinkling it over the diseased surface we use simply dry lint dressing. When healthy granulations appeared we used the powdered Iodoform more sparingly, and applied in the place of the dry, moist lint with simple water. Should an opportunity present, we are encouraged to use the Iodoform, from a knowledge of its therapeutic value as a constitutional remedy as well as a local application.

From our reference and knowledge of the entropic value of the remedy in scrofulous and other diseases, requiring reliable alteratives, we are satisfied that Iodoform will play an important part in many diseases of especial interest to the Profession.

An Interesting Case in Practice.


In Oct. 1868, I was consulted by Mrs. Osbourn of Tippah Co., Miss., who was laboring under a severe case of abdominal dropsy. Had been affected with it for about four years, her case resisting all remedies used for her relief. She had been tapped at that time some thirty-six times. I gave her some advice for future treatment, which was only attended with temporary relief. She lived until the 22d Feb. 1870. Was tapped one hundred and thirty times, taking in all five-hundred and twenty gallons of water from her.

Cause.—Ovarian disease.

T. G. BRACKING, M. D., Selma, Ala.

New York State Inebriate Asylum.

We have before us the report for 1870, of D. G. Dodge, M. D., Superintendent of the New York State Inebriate Asylum, located at Binghamton, New York—and also the "Proceedings of the first meeting of the American Association for the cure of Inebriates," held in the City of New York Nov. 29th and 30th, 1870. The former is a gratifying exhibit of the results following the scientific treatment of intemperance as a disease, by the use of both moral and physical influences—while the latter is a fitting testimonial to the philanthropic purposes and efforts of the eminent gentlemen who have contributed their time and means to the foundation and sustenance of an Institution of which the State is justly proud.

 Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

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[No. 4.

Communications.

MARRUBIUM VULGARE.

(*Horehound.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Labiatae*.

In the sexual system, this plant will be found in Class *Didynamia*, and in Order *Gymnospermia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx salver-form, rigid, marked with 10 lines; corol with the upper lip 2-cleft, straight.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—(Flowers white, blooms in July, root perennial;) leaves round-ovate, toothed, rugose-veined; calyx toothed, setaceous, uncinat.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Alterative, stimulant, tonic, diuretic, expectorant, and in large doses, laxative; many regard it as a valuable diaphoretic.

HISTORY.—Marrubium. From Marrubium, (*Maria urbs*) a town in Italy. An English author has described eleven species of this genus, none of which, have been noted for medical properties, except the vulgare.

In giving a history of this plant, Dr. Stillé observes:—"Dioscorides gives a full account of this plant, whose leaves or juice, he says, are, when taken with honey, very serviceable to those who have asthma, cough, or consumption, it being eminently efficient as an expectorant. He states that it promotes the discharge of the placenta and of the lochia, favors conception, and is an antidote to the bite of venomous serpents, but that it irritates the kidneys and bladder. It is further useful as a detergent and astringent of ulcers. To this description Galen adds that it is a deobstruent of the liver and spleen; and in Pliny we find it mentioned as good for strumous tumors when applied in an ointment, with honey for affections of the genital organs, and with vinegar in lichenous eruptions. He dwells particularly on its value in pulmonary complaints. This latter application of the medicine is strongly insisted upon by Alexander Tralles, Cælius Aurelianus, and the Arabian writers, who also specify that the dyspnoea in which it is most useful is that produced by an accumulation of mucus in the air passages. They recommend its decoction to be given internally, and cataplasms containing the leaves to be applied to the chest. The latter application is also advised in flatulent colic. The value of the juice in inflammations of the eyes, opacity of the cornea, and ulcers of the eyelids or of the cornea, is hinted at by the Greek, but strongly expressed by the Arabian authorities. Its influence on jaundice, connected with enlargement of the liver, has been asserted by many writers, such as Zacutus Lusitanus, Chomel, and Forestus; * and some cases of dropsy, associated with hepatic disease, are also said to have been cured by its use. These citations are sufficient to show in what esteem horehound was formerly held, and it has now fallen into disuse, except as a domestic remedy, the reason must be looked for in the number of more powerful remedies which the *Materia Medica* possesses at the present day." Ferrein, as quoted by Porcher, notices the root as an excellent vermifuge. Desbois de Rochefort is quoted, as saying that the decoction of three or four ounces is a good remedy in tape-worm. Dr. Cutler asserted that the infusion was a very useful application in salivation; other writers also esteem it valuable in ptyalism.

* Alston's *Mat.*, ii, 172.

HABITAT.—A native of Europe, but has been naturalized in this country.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Catarrh.—Griffith observes that obstinate catarrhs are much benefited by the expressed juice taken in milk. (*Am. Herbal*, by J. Stearns, L. L. D.) The *United States Dispensatory* relates the employment of this drug in catarrh. Dr Waring observes that this remedy has long been a popular remedy in catarrh. He quotes Dr. A. T. Thompson, † as stating that he has witnessed much benefit produced by it in catarrh in which there is much cough, with copious excretion of mucus, nocturnal sweats, and great prostration of strength. Hydrastin will be found valuable, alternated with this agent. *Marrubium* must be administered for several days in order to realize any decided benefit from its use.

Chronic Rheumatism.—The author is well satisfied that this medicine liberally taken, is beneficial in chronic rheumatism. In the Supplement to the Dict. Univ de M. Med., 487, 1846, it is said, as quoted by Porcher, to be certainly useful in chronic rheumatism, one ounce and a half of the infusion being given morning and evening. The warm infusion, sometimes produces copious diaphoresis and diuresis—functions highly beneficial for the relief of this malady. It may be administered in conjunction with hyoscyamus, lupulin, or opium. Dr. Stillé mentions that this agent has been used in chronic rheumatism. It should be employed in some cases, in conjunction with some of the alkalies, more especially when the urine exhibits an acid test. It was the juice of this plant that was particularly esteemed by the ancients, and recent testimony, observes Dr. Stillé, is not wanting to show that its virtues are substantial.

Ptyalism.—Dr. Cutler is quoted by Porcher, as asserting that the infusion of this agent, was a very useful application in salivation.

Thomas Green (an English author) observes:—"A young man, says Linneus, who had occasion to take mercurial medicines, was brought into a salivation, which continued for more than twelve months; and every means tried to remove it only served to make the complaint worse; at length an infusion of this plant was

† *Cyc. Pract. Med.*, vol. ii, p. 126.

ordered him; by the use of which, he got well in a very short time."

Other writers have made mention of the use of this plant for the relief of this affection.

In severe cases it might be well to use in conjunction with this remedy, iodide of potassium, or chlorate of potash.

Coughs and Colds.—Porcher observes, (*Recourses of the Southern Fields and Forests*, p. 491):—"The horehound has a bitter taste and an aromatic odor. It possesses tonic, diuretic and laxative properties, and it seems to owe all its powers to a bitter extractive, a volatile oil, and gallic acid.

Used in coughs, colds, asthma, etc., on account of the combination of moderate qualities just described. From the very fact of its simplicity, I consider it one of the very best remedies for infants and children suffering with colds and coughs. Given during the day with opiates, and nitre at night, it restores appetite through its bitter principle; it is expectorant and diuretic, and thus removes the slight remains of cold and fever so frequent with children. If the fever is a prominent symptom, ipecacuanha should also be used. Besides, it may perform a most important role in taking the place of more active and injurious drugs. I know of no better remedy for colds and coughs than the juice or tea of horehound sweetened and given during the day." The author can testify to its value in colds and coughs, having on many occasions employed it, with the most satisfactory results. Dr. King refers to its use in these affections. An English author remarks:—"A strong decoction of the young tops, boiled into a syrup with honey, is an excellent medicine for colds, coughs of long standing, hoarseness, and all other disorders of the breast and lungs."

Jaundice.—European and American Authors refer to the use of this plant as beneficial in the treatment of jaundice. Hydrarg. C. Creta, in some cases, will be found valuable to alternate with this drug. Phosphate of Soda, in doses of thirty grains, morning and evening, will have a beneficial effect while using the marrubium.

Hysteria.—Drs. Porcher, King, and others, refer to this remedy in hysteria. Chloral Hydrate will, in most cases, be found a

sovereign remedy in this affection and may be administered in conjunction with horehound.

Amenorrhœa.—A certain author remarks, that this plant was a famous medicine, with the ancients, for obstructions of the viscera. In the Indian *Materia Medica*, as quoted by Dr. Porcher, Leonurus Cardiacæ is spoken of as producing a quiet, refreshing sleep even where opiates had failed; this will be found useful, associated with Marrubium; and, in anæmic patients, give in addition iron. Dr. King says this drug has been used with benefit in this malady.

Dyspepsia.—The cold infusion is said to be an excellent tonic in some forms of dyspepsia. Other remedies, such as pepsine, bismuth, lactic acid, or hydrocyanic acid, may be alternated with it.

Various other complaints could be mentioned for the relief of which this agent has been used. In many cases of atony of the stomach, it has been recommended. It is said to have a special relation to the respiratory mucous membranes, hence its utility in some forms of bronchitis. Farrein notices the root as an excellent vermifuge. (Porcher). *Universal Herbal*, v. 2, p. 90:

"The leaves, dried and reduced to powder, are supposed to destroy worms in the stomach and intestines."

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	-	-	-	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 dram.
Solid	-	-	-	" 5 to 10 grains.
Pills, 2 grains	-	-	-	" 2 to 5.

VERBENA HASTATA.

(*Vervain*.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Verbenaceæ of Lindley.

According to the sexual system, this plant is located in Class *Didynamia* and Order *Gymnospermia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx with one of the teeth truncate; corol funnel-form, with a curved tube; border 5-cleft, nearly equal; nuts 2 to 4, pericarp thin and evanescent; sometimes 2 stamens are barren.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—(Flowers purple and white, in bloom from June to September, root perennial). Plant erect, tall, leaves lanceolate, acuminate, gash-serrate; lower ones sometimes gash-hastate; spikes linear, paniced, sub-imbricate. Var. *Pinnatifida*, has the leaves gash-pinnatifid, coarsely toothed. Var. *Oblongifolia*, has leaves lance oblong, deeply-serrate, acute; spikes filiform, paniced.

POPULAR NAMES.—In different localities this plant is known by different names, such as vervain, wild hyssop, or simpler's joy.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Alterative, tonic, emetic. expectorant, and sudorific.

HISTORY.—Verbena embraces quite an extensive family of plants. Green, an English botanist, has described twenty-three distinct species, besides which, there are several varieties. Some of the species are found in both the Indies. Some are natives of North and South America, others are indigenous in Europe, Asia; and Africa. There are eleven species, which are natives of North America. Many species have been found to possess valuable medicinal properties.

Some species of verbena are cultivated for their ornamental appearance.

Dr. Barham informs us, that the juice alone, of the verbena jamaicensis, (Jamaica verbena) infused in wine, is an excellent remedy against dropsies. The bruised leaves, with wheat flour, applied as a cataplasm, are useful, he says, in swellings of the spleen, a disease in the West Indies, and to discuss hard tumors at their commencement.

It is given, as a cooling cathartic and anthelmintic, to children, in doses of one or two tablespoonfuls of the expressed juice. A decoction of the plant with spikenard, is given in dropsies; a tablespoonful of the juice, four successive mornings, is considered by the negroes, with whom vervain is a favorite remedy, as an effectual deobstruent and emmenagogue. The expressed juice with water, is also very good for sore, watery, and inflamed eyes. Vervain tea is likewise frequently drunk, in Jamaica, as a febrifuge and corroborant. (Green). Verbena Lappulacca, says T. Green, is reputed to be a fine vulnerary sub-astringent, and is commonly applied to bleeding wounds in men and cattle, especially in

Jamaica, where it is esteemed to be so powerful a styptic as to stop the hæmorrhage, even when some of the more considerable arteries are cut; and it may be esteemed an excellent application in all manner of sores, where the habit is relaxed.

Verbena Officinalis;—the author of the *Universal Herbal* observes:—"Though this plant is destitute of odor, and manifests to the taste but a slight degree of bitterness and astringency, yet even in modern times it has been accounted a sovereign remedy in a multitude of disorders. Schroder recommends it in upward of thirty complaints. Bruised and hung around the neck, it was worn as a charm against inveterate headaches; and in still later times we are told that the most severe and obstinate headaches have been cured by applying it as a cataplasm. Dr. Home advises a decoction of it made in the preparation of two ounces to a quart, and the same taken in the space of a day, as a good medicine in purgings. It eases pain in the bowels; and is given in clysters with advantage, where there is a desire of going to stool without being able; and is often applied internally to the piles. Among the ancients, it was held sacred, and was employed in making leagues by ambassadors, in sacrificial rites, and in incantations; hence it was suspended about the neck as an amulet, and was thought to be good against serpents and venomous bites, and was reckoned a specific for a variety of diseases."

U. S. Disp., 1304. This plant (*Verbena hastata*) is more bitter than the European species, and is said to be emetic. It is described by the "Cherokee Physician" as an emetic inferior to the "Indian Physic;" a decoction of the dry or green herb or a powder is prescribed like lobelia.

HABITAT.—The *Verbena hastata* is a native of both hemispheres. It grows in great abundance in most all parts of the United States, by the roadsides, and in moist grassy fields.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Intermittent Fever.—Dr. Porcher remarks, that a decoction of the root is used to check fevers when given in the early stage. Dr. King, in his allusion to this agent, says:—"As an emetic and sudorific it has proved beneficial in intermittent fevers, given in warm infusion or in powder.

Prof. Paine has used the verbenin, the concentrated principle of

this plant, and informs us that in doses of from one-half to one grain, it is an active emetic, producing considerable nausea, vomiting, and active sudorific influences, as after taking the medicine and vomiting, it is usually followed by copious and free perspiration. He says it also acts as an arterial sedative, reducing the action of the heart and arteries, and acting in this respect upon the system similar to the veratrin. In larger doses, Prof. P. says it operates as an emeto-cathartic, producing sometimes a decided impression. He administered five or six grains to a patient, which was immediately followed by vomiting and purging.

In doses of from one-eighth to one-fourth of a grain he says, it is a gentle diuretic, and has a tendency to stimulate the action of the skin; hence it may be used in all cases where there is a hot and pungent surface, for the purpose of producing moisture. In the commencement of marsh fevers, it may serve a valuable purpose, says our author, in doses sufficiently large to evacuate the stomach, and at the same time maintain a sudorific action upon the cutaneous surface. From the experience which he has had with this drug, Prof. P. is satisfied that it possesses active febrifuge, alterative, and diuretic properties, and is capable of fulfilling very important indications in the management of febrile and in inflammatory diseases. This agent may be associated to advantage with many of the accredited remedies employed in the treatment of this malady.

Constipation of the Bowels.—Very many cases of constipation of the bowels will be relieved by the use of verbenin and small doses of ext. of nux vomica.

Other Diseases.—Dr. King says, in all cases of colds and obstructed menstruation, verbenina hastata may be used as a sudorific. Taken cold, the infusion is said to form a good tonic in some cases of debility, anorexia, and during convalescence from acute diseases. Dr. K. remarks that it has been reputed valuable in scrofula, visceral obstructions, gravel and worms. Many other diseases might be mentioned, for which this drug might be used to advantage—cases requiring the employment of alteratives, tonics, sedatives and sudorifics.

Many pulmonary diseases, bronchial affections, and catarrhs require similar properties in their treatment, to those accredited to

verbena hastata, and this agent may be used with manifest advantage in those diseases.

PREPARATION.

Fluid Extract - - - Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 Dram

GILLENIA TRIFOLIATA.

(*Indian Physic.*)

BY W. COULSON BUCKLEY, M. D.

NATURAL HISTORY.

NATURAL ORDER.—Rosaceæ. The *Rose tribe*.

SEXUAL SYSTEM.—*Icosandria. Pentagynia.*

Trees, herbs or shrubs, with simple or compound leaves, alternate and stipulate.

Genus *Trifoliata*, has calyx tubular, campanulate, contracted at the orifice; five cleft; petals five, linear lanceolate; very long; unequal; has ten to fifteen very short stamens; five carpels, connate at the base; styles terminal; follicles two-valved; two to four seeded. Herbs with tri-foliate, doubly-serrate leaves.

SPECIES TRIFOLIATA.—Ternate leaves; leaflets lanceolate, serrate; stipules linear; flowers in loose terminal panicles. They are large and of a pale pinkish color. The plant is in full flower in June. It grows in the woods from New York to Georgia.

G. Trifoliata is a very handsome herb, growing from two to three feet high, very slender and quite smooth. The root is perennial and composed of many long slender caudexes, growing out from a thick tube; some of these are more or less knotted. The number of branches or rootlets proceeding from the tube varies, sometimes one, other times many. This plant may be readily propagated by the seeds. "They should be sown in a shady border soon after they are ripe."

PROPERTIES.—Emetic, cathartic, diaphoretic, alterative and tonic. The bark of the root, the part employed, is very bitter; its bitterness is extracted by both alcohol and boiling water. "It contains gum, starch, gallo-tannic acid, fatty matter, wax, resin,

coloring matter, * albumen and liquor, besides salts." The name *Gillenin*, has been given to a substance obtained from the bark of the roots, this is of a whitish color very bitter; a half grain of which produced nausea. †

MEDICAL QUALITIES.

This beautiful American plant has been placed in the *Dispensatory* of our States, and in many works upon therapeutics by American Authors, under the head of emetics. It is thought to be very similar in its action to that of *Cephalis Ipecacuanha*, hence, it is considered a good substitute for it. I have used it in febrile affections and have found it an excellent diaphoretic and *equalizer* of the circulation of blood.

Rheumatism, acute, sub-acute and chronic, are diseases in which it will be found very efficient. In chronic and scrofulous rheumatism, I have found it best to employ it in combination with *Apocynum Androsæmifolium*. A very good formula will be found in the following:

R	Fluid Ext. Apocyn. Androsæm	-	-	
	Fl. Ext. Gillen. Trifol.,	-	-	ää f ʒ ss.
	Aqua, et syr. Limon.	-	-	ää f ʒ j.

M. P. Teaspoonful every two, three, or four hours. This may produce some cathartic effect, and if not too severe and long continued will result in good. The purgative effect, when not desired, may be prevented by adding to each dose a little tincture of opium.

Dyspepsia, when attended with vomiting of bile, may be relieved by *minute* doses of *Gillenia*, also that form of dyspepsia called catarrh of the stomach, also the attendant nausea and vomiting, and *diarrhoea when watery*; *nux vomica* combined or alternated with it in many forms of dyspepsia will be useful.

As far back as 1817, *Gillenia Trifol.*, was used in intermittent fever on the supposition that it possessed sufficient *tonic* power to ward off this disease. This conclusion, however, has not been borne out. The dose of the powder is, for an adult, 20 to 30 grs. In this quantity it is said to be a safe and efficacious emetic. "It is said the country people have frequently used the plant so in-

* Am. Jour. of Pharm.

† See U. S. Dispensatory.

cautiously, as to be under the necessity of resorting to medical aid. This proves nothing but its activity. Shœpf says, in doses of from two scruples to a drachm, it operates as safely and as effectually as ipecacuanha. The roots should be collected in September." *

PREPARATIONS.—Fluid Extract, dose, four to twelve drops.

Infusion, (half ounce to pint of boiling water). Dose, from one to two ounces when used as an emetic. Either of the preparations just named, or the powdered bark of the root may be used in dyspepsia, or in bronchial catarrh. For dyspepsia, say, thirty drops of the fluid extract mixed with one ounce each of Glycerine and water, and give a teaspoonful three or four times a day, after meals; for the same, the powder may be employed in doses of from 2 to 4 grains; the infusion in doses of from one to two fluid-drachms. In bronchial catarrh, during fever, the dose should be about double, and administered every two, three, or four hours. After the fever has passed off, half this quantity of either preparation, should be taken for a dose, and repeated every three or four hours.

A good formula will be found in the following :

R	Balsam Copaiba	-	-	-	-	f. 3 iss.
	or Oil of Copaiba	-	-	-	-	gtts. viii.
	Mucilage of Acacia	-	-	-	-	℥ ii.

Fluid extract of *Stillingia* and fluid extract of *Gillenia*, of each one half drachm. Mix. Dose, thirty to sixty drops for an adult every three or four hours.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL.

BY G. V. WOOLEN, M. D., INDIANAPOLIS.

Nov. 10, 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M. Was called to see Mrs. Q. F., aged 27, in her third confinement. She had been taken in labor the night before, but had not had severe pains until about eleven o'clock A. M., when they became quite severe, and soon she had a light convulsion. When I arrived she had had three, and each was more severe than the preceding. Had one immediately after I arrived, which had

* Bartous Med. Botany.

been preceded by a wild hysterical excitement, and very imperfect labor pains. I hastily dispatched a messenger for the following:

R Hydrate Chloral.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ s.
Syr. Tolu.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ s.
Aqua Cinnamon.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ is.

M. Sig. A teaspoonful every half hour.

Before I had secured the remedy, she had another convulsion of the same character of the former, during which she bit her tongue considerably. Very soon after the administration of the chloral the pains became regular and vigorous, and would continue so when she was under its influence, but when discontinued seemed to relapse into the same condition as formerly, with every prospect of the return of the convulsions.

During this time I learned that both her other deliveries had been secured by sacrificing the child's life—the first time by craniotomy, in the practice of four regular physicians, and the second by removal of child piecemeal, in the practice of three of the leading "eclectic physicians" of this city, and that she had had convulsions at both labors. On my first examination I had not given very particular attention to the capacity of the pelvis, and had assured the friends that the case would terminate favorably, as the os-uteri was dilating and soft parts in good condition, vertex presentation, occiput to the left acetabulum. After getting the history, together with the statement that all the physicians who had seen her said she never could be delivered of a live child, and with wonder expressed at my opinion, confess I felt that my future was not so certain, and I soon sought an opportunity to ascertain more definitely what hinderances existed to a successful delivery. The examination revealed a considerable contraction of the antero-posterior diameter, occasioned by the promontory of the sacrum projecting forward abnormally; also, an undue prominence of the rudimentary upper transverse processes of the sacrum, so as to form a shelf, as it were, at the entrance of the superior strait. I decided that I had an anterior-posterior diameter of about two and a half inches, and trusting to a proper adaptation of the transverse diameter of the child's head, I hoped I might secure a delivery. Finding such admirable effects from the chloral in producing regular, vigorous pains, I gave my entire attention to the descent and rotations of the head, which I found I could control quite well by locking both hands together by the last three fingers of each hand, and using the index fingers as blades of forceps. I finally

succeeded in getting the head off the shelf described, and to engage in the superior strait of the pelvis, with the transverse diameter of the head to correspond with the antero posterior diameter of the pelvis. But here the labor became tedious, occupying the most of the night, and possibly might have been accelerated by forceps. But the mention of instruments was so horrifying to the patient in view of the past, that I was persuaded to wait. Especially, feeling I was giving very considerable help by my locked hands used as forceps somewhat, and as the chloral gave refreshing sleep between the pains, which returned so regularly and vigorously. Finally I was rewarded by the occiput rotating forward to engage under the pubic arch, and after this was accomplished, all went on satisfactorily, so far as the head was concerned. But when the shoulders became engaged there was a very strong tendency to engage with the transverse diameter to the antero-posterior diameter of pelvis, due, as I thought, to the filling up of the usual hollow of the sacrum along side of the promontory, by the prominent transverse processes. However, by some effort at rotation with the head, but principally by external pressure and manipulation, I succeeded in getting it to engage with the short diameter correspondingly, and effect a delivery, but not until such congestion of the head had occurred that I felt the child must be dead, which, however, was resuscitated with some effort. The labor terminated without further trouble at 8 o'clock A. M.,

Nov. 11th, 18 hours after I had been called, and more than 24 hours after labor began, the patient seemed conscious, but says subsequently she knew nothing of it. Being considerably exhausted, some relaxation occurred and clots formed, and I was recalled three hours afterward, and found her suffering with considerable after-pains, with an appearance of a return of convulsions. I at once gave her a full dose of the chloral, and provoked a firm contraction of the uterus, expelling the clots and giving her relief.

The child weighed eight pounds, and was quite vigorous. Its head was fearfully out of shape, due, of course, to the moulding in the pelvis.

Remarks may be unnecessary, but it is claimed that chloral is valuable in obstetrical practice, and so far as the history of this case goes it is confirmatory. The patient took 30 grains every two or three hours, and was so fully under its influence toward the last as not to know when the child was born. It was quite remarkable what control it had over the pains; subduing all irregular contraction and nervous

disturbances, and securing as regular pains as ever ergot has done for me, and at the same time producing quiet, and frequently sound sleep in the intervals. Whenever its influence ceased, the marked appearances of convulsions returned. I may state that the convulsions were of a decidedly hysterical character, although her arms were tattooed with scars from venesection performed at previous deliveries.

I may say that in one instance since when I sought the assistance of chloral, I was not disappointed in finding it a certain remedy to control irregular uterine action, and secure regular contraction with ease and comfort in the interval. I have found it most acceptable in the above prescription, diluted at time of administration.

May I ask, in conclusion, if this case is not another proof that too many children have been sacrificed in the past by the display of skill in the use of instruments?—*Indiana Journal of Medicine*, Feb. 1871.

TREATMENT OF ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

BY DR. J. T. DAVIS, LACONIA, INDIANA.

The treatment of rheumatism like the treatment of pneumonia remains *questio vexata*. Warren once said that six weeks in bed was the best remedy. In more modern times it is asserted that cases of rheumatism treated with mint water alone will get well equally as soon as those treated by more active means. Prof. Bennett of Edinburgh believes that acute rheumatism cures itself. Now Prof. Bennett is a great man, and a high authority in the medical profession, but then great as he is, we believe that he has taught a *very great error*. We cannot conceive how nature can one moment cause disease, and the next cure it. We sincerely believe that so much talking and writing about "effects of nature," have been, and are yet detrimental to the welfare and progress of medical science. We are no advocates of old foggy ideas in medicine, *but we do believe and boldly assert that drugs will cure diseases if given understandingly*. Rheumatism is a fever, hence, when called to see a patient suffering with it, we go to work without delay and endeavor to subdue it as speedily as possible, just as we would in any other febrile affection of a periodical character, for rheumatic fever, and fever and ague, certainly have some points of resemblance; and here in the west near our great rivers, rheumatism seems to wear a good deal of the livery of malaria. Hence, in its successful treatment, quinia sulph., or cinchonia sulph. is the basis of the treatment; other

remedies are combined with it, and other means resorted to, to relieve the patient, but this remedy has as much or more to do in relieving the patient, and aiding in the restoration of his vital powers, as any other. When called to a patient with rheumatism, we first order him to be put to bed between blankets, and if he is suffering very much we give him one or two grains of opium, and proceed to administer the following alternately every three hours.

R	Quiniæ Sulph.....	gr. xx.
	Potassæ Nit.....	3 i.
M.	Ft. chta. No. vi. Sig.	One powder every 3 hours.
R	Tr. Aconit.....	
	Tr. Colchici.....	ää f. 3 i.
	Potassa Bicarb.....	3 iss.
	Aquæ.....	5 vj.
M.	Sig.	One tablespoonful every 3 hours.

In a large number of cases we have found the above treatment to be excellent. Plenty of milk and good nourishing food is given. We never expect to cure a patient by starving him. In this disease as in many others there is a great waste going on, and it behooves us to husband the patient's resources as much as possible. When there is any vomiting or nausea we find lime water and milk to answer a fine purpose. If the heart becomes implicated, apply a blister, and increase the dose of aconite. Treated thus, all our cases of heart troubles have been speedily removed. Liniments to the inflamed joints are sometimes useful, but we do not use them in all cases.

The bowels should be kept open, but purging is not required. The patient must be kept clean. All his clothing and bed-clothes should be changed frequently. If he cannot rest at night give opium and morphia. As stated above, we have found the above plan of treating rheumatism to be excellent. The worst symptoms generally subsiding in a week or ten days, sometimes earlier. As soon as the height of the attack has passed over, we give him quinia and iron, and continue it until he is entirely well. If the patient is scrofulous, give him potassa iodide. If nervous, administer the nerve tonics, and give the best of nourishing diet.

In concluding this imperfect account of the treatment of acute rheumatism, I quote, and heartily indorse the following language of Dr. Henry Kennedy of Dublin: "To sum up then, I hold that acute rheumatic fever can, by our art, be materially shortened in its duration, and that those who are sick need a physician."—*Cincinnati Medical Repertory*, February, 1871.

A REMEDY FOR ASTHMA.

Dr. James S. Bailey, of Albany, says: Having during the last fifteen years prescribed many of the remedies mentioned with indifferent and varied success, after much careful study I have prepared the following formulary, which has, during more than half this period, acted to my entire satisfaction. I now place it at the disposal of the profession, hoping it may meet with the same success in their hands as mine, in relieving the distress of this unfortunate class of sufferers.

It is as follows:

R	Syrup of tar compound.....	oz. iv.
	Sulphuric ether.....	oz. ii.
	Pulv. gum acacia.....	dr. vi. M.

Take one teaspoonful every three hours until relieved. Oftentimes two or three doses are quite sufficient to relieve an aggravated attack of spasmodic asthma.

As the syrup of tar comp. is my own preparation and not pharmaceutical, it is necessary to give the formulary for its preparation, which is as follows:

R	Picis liquidæ	oz. iv.
	Scillæ acet	O. j.
	Antim. et potass. tart.....	gr. xvi.
	Magnesiæ carb.....	oz. ss.
	Sacch. albi.....	oz. xxx.
	Sulph. ether.....	
	Spts. vini rectificati.....	aa f. oz. j.

Mix the tar and carb. magnesia in a mortar, adding alcohol first and then the ether, then add the acet. scillæ and throw the whole upon a stout filter. Having added sufficient acet. scillæ (if may be) to make the filtered liquid measure O j., proceed to make the syrup by the usual U. S. P. formulary, taking care to apply a gentle heat. Lastly, strain through flannel and add the tart. antimonii in solution.

After the paroxysm is relieved the patient is left in a relaxed and debilitated condition; it is then necessary to resort to a course of treatment. A general diet, with simple bitters or some mild preparation of iron, is generally sufficient to restore the system to its accustomed health.—*Oregon Medical and Surgical Reporter*, Dec. 1870.

CHRONIC CATARRH.

BY D. W. HAND, M. D., OF ST. PAUL, MINN.

Catarrh, or more definitely, post-nasal catarrh, is the most common affection of this climate. It prevails extensively in this as well as all other Northern States, and the public mind having of late been much called to it, we constantly hear the remark that it is so much more frequent now than in years past.

It affects all ages, and when once established, is annoying during all seasons.

The cause can readily be found in the sudden and extreme changes of temperature to which we are subjected in winter, and the general introduction of coal and air-tight stoves is the reason why the disease is so much more common than it was thirty or forty years ago. To pass from a room, heated by a furnace to a temperature of 70 degrees, into the open air at zero, or below; or to step from a close, highly heated railroad car upon an exposed platform, where the cold, piercing wind chills you through, must do injury to the delicate mucous membrane of the nose and throat.

As developed, that injury, in the majority of cases, becomes *catarrh*. Often we have at once all the symptoms of an active inflammation, viz: a chilly sensation, followed by fever, aching of the limbs and back; pain over the eyes; a sense of stuffing in the ears, and dryness in the nose and throat. After twenty-four or more hours, there is generally a free effusion of serum; the nose runs freely, and the extremity of suffering is relieved. Often, however, before this takes place, there has been an extension of the inflammation along the Eustachian tubes to the internal ear, and violent catarrh is set up there. This frequently ends in suppuration, and rupture of the *membrana tympani*.

After an acute attack of this kind, and also often when the patient can only remember a slight "cold in the head," we find the following symptoms, denoting chronic catarrh:

A feeling of uneasiness in the upper part of the pharynx and behind the soft palate; a dryness or roughness, or sensation as if something was adhering to the small spot behind the soft palate, and exactly at the point where neither blowing the nose or clearing the throat will reach it. The discharge from the nose is not usually copious, often it is entirely wanting, but from the posterior nares, and

the region behind the soft palate, there drops into the throat a mucous or muco-purulent fluid. In the milder cases this discharge is mucous, not very profuse, and frequently disappears of itself, after a few days or weeks, again to be excited by any fresh cold the patient may take.

Generally, however, the inflammation becomes more and more severe; there is a constant dull pain over the frontal sinus; the posterior arches of the throat become thickened; the mucous membrane, so far as it can be seen, is rough and granular, the whole pharynx is more or less inflamed, and constantly there runs into the throat a purulent, sometimes mucilaginous, and oftentimes offensive discharge. To clear this out the patient is incessantly hawking and spitting. The mucous membrane in the nose ulcerates and bleeds; in bad cases this ulceration lays bare the bone, and *caries* results. In other cases the membrane does not ulcerate but swells up and forms *polypi*. The thickened granular condition of the mucous membrane obstructs the Eustachian tubes, and causes deafness, with annoying noises in the ears; the eyes become red and weak, the memory fails, and the patient is often reduced to a pitiable condition.

A patient in the country, who has an aggravated chronic catarrh, writes me: "I have suffered indescribable torment for the past eighteen years, while my hearing has been destroyed, my eyesight impaired, my memory ruined, my very brains eat out with disease."

The most distressing consequence of this disease is deafness. More than three-fourths of all the cases of deafness, and diseases of the ear that come to me, are caused by chronic catarrh. The pain and noises in the ear, that are so common, are nearly always caused by it. Not usually does this catarrh extend to the trachea and bronchial tubes; and I am not satisfied that when it does, it is ever a cause of phthisis pulmonalis. It is common to see a catarrh of this character extend through months, and years, without producing cough, or impairing the expansibility of the lung tissue.

The frequent passage of the catarrhal discharge down the œsophagus, and into the stomach, causes derangement of that organ, and it is usual to find indigestion one of the prominent symptoms in cases of long standing catarrh. Many persons affected in this way attempt no means of cure. They don't exactly know what is the matter with them, or they have heard that catarrh is incurable.

I believe that by judicious treatment, combined with patience and perseverance on the part of the patient, almost any case can be cured in from two to six months.

Treatment.—Should a case of catarrh be seen in the forming stage, it is possible to cut it short by rest, warmth, and the proper use of opium. The patient must remain quiet in a warm room, use a hot foot-bath, and at bed-time take a teaspoonful of paregoric, a quarter of a grain of morphia, or ten grains of Dovers powder. It is worse than useless to use any kind of snuff or wash in this stage. In twenty-four hours he will usually be free from his catarrh, but with such remaining sensibility that exposure may readily start another. He should therefore remain comparatively quiet for a few days longer.

Generally we do not see the patient until the disease has become chronic, and here constitutional treatment is not often indicated or required. In some cases ten drops tinct. aconite root three times a day, has been found to relieve the tension in the head; in other cases tinct. belladonna, in the same dose, has appeared to give relief; occasionally it will be necessary to give tonics, and sometimes to use anodyne or stimulating liniments over the neck and scalp to allay the burning pain. The disease, however, is *local*, and must be treated by *local applications*. How best to apply them has long been a study.

The post nasal syringe is of great value, and in many cases indispensable, but its use is unpleasant and occasionally painful. I therefore frequently used instead, a female catheter, with a small bulb syringe attached. The catheter may be passed along the floor of the nose, and through it the wash injected on any spot desired.

By one of the modes indicated a stimulating injection should be thoroughly made by the Surgeon every third or fourth day. The best washes are, argenti nitrat., gr. x.; zinci sulphat., gr. ij.; zinci chloridi, gr. ss.; cupri. sulph. gr. ss.; or acid carbolic, gr. ss.; to aq. oz. j. Always previous to using them nose should be well washed out by injecting a solution of common salt, or of bi carb. soda.

Meantime, it is of great importance that the patient be able to use the proper remedies at his own home. Thudichum's nasal douche is in common use, but is a dangerous instrument, and should only be used when long standing disease has entirely changed the character of the posterior nares and pharynx. A number of cases have been reported where its use has brought on violent inflammation of the internal ear, and I have myself seen two cases where severe internal otitis, and rupture of the membrana tympani could be directly traced to the use of this instrument.

It is, therefore, better for the patient to use proper washes by insufflation. Let him pour a teaspoonful or more of the prescribed

liquid in the palm of the hand, then gently snuff the fluid up the nostrils until the nose is well filled, when he should throw his head back and the wash will run into his throat. This should be repeated three or four times, until the nose is well cleared out, and then, the last time after using it, he should not blow his nose, as it is important that some of the wash should remain on the diseased membrane.

The best washes for general use in this way, are:

R Sodii chloridi.....	3 ij.
Pulv. Camphoræ.....	gr. v.
Hyoscyamæ.....	gr. iij.
Aqua.....	Oj.

Solve et cola. This is mild and pleasant to use. Another mild wash is:

R Sodæ bisulphatis.....	3 ij.
Med. sassafras.....	3 j.

M. ft. chart. Signa. Put in a quart of boiling soft water, strain, and snuff up the nose as directed. Or,

R Potas. chloratis.....	3 iv.
Med. sassafras.....	3 ss.

M. ft. chart.

This is to be treated in the same way as the preceding powder. When the discharge is purulent, and the taste nearly destroyed, I have found an infusion of *hydrastis canadensis*, 3 ij. to oj. with 3 ij. of common salt dissolved in it, a most useful wash. If the discharge is offensive, a wash of permanganate of potassa, gr. v. to x, to aq. Oj., may be used in the same way, or may be thrown up the nose with a syringe.

When there is much dryness of the nose and throat, it is well to use finely powdered galangal as a snuff. This excites a free secretion and appears to have a tonic effect on the mucous membrane. Another useful snuff powder is made by mixing thoroughly, equal parts of powdered camphor, tannic acid, and finely powdered and dried Welsh snuff.

When the throat is much affected, it is well to use the following gargle:

R Tinct. iodinii.....	3 ss.
Potass. iodidi.....	3 j.
Spts. vini.....	gal., 3 iij.
Aq.....	3. viiss. M.

Let the patient take a mouthful of this, then sit down, with his head thrown back, and several times in succession make the motion of swallowing, without letting the fluid into the œsophagus. In this way the upper portion of the pharynx, and even the orifices of the Eustachian tubes may be reached. The use of cold salt water in this way is often beneficial.

When there is much difficulty in using washes or injections, the patient will often find benefit from the inhalation of iodine or chlorine. Let him, several times a day, hold a small vial of tinct. iodine in his hand until it is quite warm, then withdraw the cork, and hold to his nose while he makes deep inspirations for ten minutes; or, what is better, let him make an inhaler from a quinine bottle, with two long quills stuck through the cork, and a piece of gum catheter fixed to the outside one for a mouth-piece. Fill this two-thirds full of tepid water, and put into it one or two teaspoonsful of aq. chlorinii, U. S. P., or of the following liquid:

R̄ Iodinii. Potass iodidi.....	aa gr. v.
Spts. vini. rect.....	℥ ss.
Aq.....	℥ vss. M.

Then fill the mouth and throat by inhaling through the bottle, and expire through the nose. The patient should use the inhaler in this way for ten or fifteen minutes twice a day.

Any of the medicines mentioned that prove useful should be continuously kept up until all symptoms of the disease have disappeared, and the patient should then be warned to resume their use, if any slight cold he takes does not pass away quickly.—*Northwestern Med. and Surgical Journal.*

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

ON THE ACIDS.—Syphilitic warts and condylomata may be, with great certainty and without pain, removed by a wash of diluted nitric acid, with which they are to be kept constantly moist; a drachm or two drachms of the dilute acid to a pint of water is sufficient.

Repeated experiments have shown that when dilute acids are taken into the stomach they check its secretion, while alkalies excite the

secretion of the gastric juice. Hence it is said that acids lessen acid and increase alkaline secretions from the glands, while alkalies check the alkaline but increase the acid. From this it is apparent that the time, in respect to the meals, for giving acids is all important. If given before meals, acids check the secretion of the acid gastric juice, and so hinder instead of aid digestion. When the secretion of gastric juice is deficient, the acid should be taken after meals. As a rule, atonic dyspepsia is best treated by alkalies given a short time before meals, when they increase the secretion of the gastric juice. In certain cases the acids relieve where the alkalies fail. These are presumably where the mucous membrane has been worn out by excesses in eating or drinking, and where no stimulant can excite a sufficient flow of the gastric juice. In many diseases of the stomach, and affections elsewhere disturbing this organ, an excess of acid is secreted by its follicles. This undue secretion is checked by acids taken before food. Excessive or irregular fermentation and excessive secretion of the gastric juice are the two causes of acidity of the stomach. Acids possess the power of controlling and checking this acidity, and the symptoms which accompany it, whether they depend on pregnancy, uterine disease, calculus of the kidneys, or the various dyspepsias or more serious diseases of the stomach.

Eruotations of offensive gas, with the odor and flavor of rotten eggs, are corrected by the employment of the mineral acids. A clue to the administration of acids on the one hand, or of alkalies on the other, in the treatment of the dyspepsias, can sometimes be obtained by testing the reaction of the fluids ejected from the stomach. Not unfrequently, soon after a meal, a fluid regurgitates, often without any labor on the part of the patient, into the mouth. Sometimes this is strongly acid, a reaction which is easily discovered by the sufferer. If such be the case, the acidity and pyrosis can be almost immediately removed by the exhibition of nitric or hydrochloric acid shortly before each meal.

On other occasions the fluid of pyrosis is of an alkaline reaction. It is often accompanied by much distress, with nausea and vomiting of the food which has shortly before been eaten, and when such occurs the rejected contents of the stomach often possess a strong alkaline reaction. Here all the distressing symptoms, the nausea and the vomiting, may be removed by the use of an acid as soon as the meal is concluded. If the acids be too long continued, the improvement which first follows their use ceases, and fresh symptoms arise, which, strange to say, yield to an entirely opposite treatment.

Sulphuric acid is of unquestionable benefit in choleraic and summer diarrhea. When its results are unsatisfactory it depends in many instances on its being given in too large quantity, whereby the acidity of the canal is increased and the diarrhea often aggravated. Its good effects most certainly follow on a small medicinal dose. Nitric acid in similar doses often acts most admirably in the diarrhea of children when the motions are green, curded, mixed with mucus, sour, and their passage accompanied by much straining. It is also extremely beneficial given with pepsin in the chronic diarrhea of children where the motions are pale and pasty, and have a sour and disagreeable odor.—*Amer. Practitioner*, March, 1871.

ON THE BROMIDES.—It occasionally happens that children, from the time of their birth, and without any malformation of the throat, and who can swallow solids with ease, are choked every time they try to drink fluids. This is an affection which may in no way be connected with diphtheria or other affections of the throat. Such children may be much benefited by the bromide of potassium. These salts have a beneficial influence in a form of colic which sometimes affects children a few months to one or two years old. With such the walls of the belly are retracted and hard, while the intestines can be seen at one spot contracted into a hard lump the size of a small orange, and this contraction can be seen through the walls of the belly to travel from one part of the intestines to another. These attacks of colic are very often repeated, and produce excruciating pain. The form of disease of which we are now speaking is unaccounted with either constipation or diarrhea or flatulence. It is sometimes associated with a chronic aphthous condition of the mouth. It generally resists all kinds of treatment, but will mostly at once yield to the bromides.

The bromide of potassium is of use in all forms of convulsions; it is good in epilepsy, in convulsions of Bright's disease, and in the convulsions of children, whether these be due to centric or eccentric causes. The convulsive form of epilepsy is remarkably amenable to this salt. Attacks of petit mal are mostly uninfluenced by the drug. The effects of the medicine are most pronounced when the disease is of short standing. In some cases of convulsive epilepsy the bromide is powerless, and we cannot at present foretell when the medicine will succeed and when it will fail. Its administration should at times be omitted for a few weeks, or the system becomes accustomed to its presence and its good effects cease. Convulsions due to intestinal worms often resist the remedy. Convulsions accompanying simple

meningitis are often checked by it. In simple uncomplicated whooping-cough—and in this form of the disease alone—the bromide possesses great power, diminishing both the severity and frequency of the paroxysms. It is also a most efficient remedy in laryngismus stridulus.

The delusions and frightful imaginings which sometimes occur in women at night during the latter months of pregnancy are removed, and in their place pleasant sleep secured by the bromide of potassium. It is of great service in that form of night screaming of children which appears to be allied to nightmare, it is equally useful in the nightmare of adults. In some forms of menorrhagia it is superior to any remedy we possess.—Dr. Sidney Ringer's *Hand-book of Therapeutics*.—*American Practitioner*, March, 1871.

IPPECACUANHA.—There are few remedies so powerful to check some kinds of vomiting as ipecac. In drop doses of the wine, administered every hour or three times a day, according to the urgency of the case, the author has seen it, in abundant instances, check the following kinds of sickness: 1. Of pregnancy, especially when this is not accompanied by and dependent on acidity of the stomach, one drop of ipecacuanha wine, given three times a day, will in the majority of cases, give complete relief. 2. The morning vomiting of drunkards; but this can be still better controlled by the solution of arsenic. 3. The morning vomiting which sometimes accompanies general weakness, and is met with in convalescents from acute diseases, and in persons recovering from child-birth. 4. It often controls immediately the vomiting of acute catarrh of the stomach in children. Indeed the remedy appears to have a greater power over the vomiting of children than of adults. 5. It often removes or lessens the vomiting of whooping-cough, when this is produced by the violence of the cough, although it may in no way lessen the severity of the cough. Cases occur of vomiting from this cause which are quite unaffected by ipecacuanha, but which immediately yield to alum. 6. There occurs a species of vomiting after meals, in which there is no nausea nor pain, or even discomfort; the food is merely rejected, partially and often very little digested. This complaint may last a long time, but in many instances is quickly stayed by ipecacuanha wine. Arsenic is a still better remedy in this disease.

Ipecacuanha, in the author's experience, proves of little use in the following forms of vomiting: 1. Where, in children, the vomited matters are composed of hard and large lumps of curdled milk. Lime-

water is the best remedy in such a case. 2. It is not very generally useful in that form of vomiting met with in young children, a few weeks or months old, with whom the milk is almost immediately rejected after it is swallowed. This form of vomiting is best treated by small doses (one-third grain) of gray powder, or of calomel (one-tenth grain). Ipecacuanha sometimes checks the vomiting from cancer of the stomach, and has succeeded where the more commonly used remedies have entirely failed.—*American Practitioner*, March, 1871.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL.—It appears to be generally admitted now that the use of the newly discovered hydrate of chloral, unless by the advice of a competent physician, is liable to lead to seriously injurious results; but it does not follow that the drug may not be of great benefit as a remedial agent to skilful hands. An opium-eater writes to the *Chicago Tribune* that for many years he had made every possible effort to free himself from the habit, efforts that were seconded by all the aids that medical science could give, but that they had all failed from one cause, the total inability to sleep after leaving off opium. In the hydrate of chloral he found the desired relief. Until he had completely abandoned the opium he did not meddle with it; even then he used it merely to induce sleep, taking about thirty grains at the usual hour of repose. In twenty minutes after taking it he invariably slept, and in the morning awoke thoroughly refreshed. As the time passed and the effects of the opium became more and more eliminated from his system, he took less and less of the chloral until his cure was complete. It is not to be understood that the use of chloral destroys the taste for opium, by any means; but the great difficulty in the way of opium-eaters who have sought to abandon the habit has been, that after having had the resolution to discontinue its use, the sleeplessness which was certain to ensue became so unendurable that the victim has been compelled to fall back upon his enemy for relief. To opium-eaters who really have a fixed determination to escape from their degrading slavery, the hydrate of chloral, administered under the supervision of a judicious medical man, in connection with other treatment such as any competent physician would prescribe, promise to be of inestimable value.—*New York Sun*, Saturday, March, 11th 1871.

TARTAR-EMETIC, is invaluable in the following disease:

Children, from six to twelve years old, on the slightest exposure to cold, are sometimes attacked with wheezing and difficulty of breathing,

which is oftentimes so considerable as to compel them to sit all night propped up with pillows. The expectoration may be pretty abundant, but children of this age do not generally expectorate. On listening to the chest there is heard much sonorous and sibilant, with perhaps a little bubbling, rhonchus; but this last is often absent. The child can be heard to wheeze for a considerable distance, and it may be the noise is so great as to be heard many rooms off. Occasionally the cough is troublesome, and on each exposure to cold the voice may become hoarse, and the cough hollow and barking. Some children are thus afflicted whenever the weather is cold, even in Summer, and may not be free the whole winter; with others the attack lasts a few weeks only, or a few days. This affection sometimes follows measles, and is compared by the mother to asthma, with which it is certainly allied, if not identical. Such children are speedily benefited by tartar-emetic. The following is the mode of administering this salt: add a grain of it to half a pint of water, and of this give a tea spoonful every quarter of an hour for the first hour, and hourly afterward. If the wheezing comes on at night, give the medicine only at this time. Its effects are usually very prompt, the child often being greatly benefited on the first night of its employment. It may be thought so small a dose must be without effect, but very generally when the medicine is first given it is sufficient to produce vomiting once or twice in the day. If this occurs the dose must be made still smaller, as it is not necessary to produce sickness of the stomach in order to obtain its effects on the lungs.—*American Practitioner*, March, 1871.

OIL OF PEPPERMINT AS A LOCAL ANÆSTHETIC.—Dr. A. WRIGHT writes to the editor of the *Lancet* Nov. 19, 1870, that "a few years ago I became acquainted with the fact of the natives (Chinese), when suffering with facial neuralgia, using oil of peppermint, which they lightly apply to the seat of pain with a camel-hair pencil. Since then, in my own practice, I in the same way frequently employ oil of peppermint as a local anæsthetic, not only in neuralgia, but also in gout, with remarkably good results; indeed, the relief from pain I have found to be almost instantaneous."

It is worthy of note that some Chinese Pharmacutists in San Francisco and New York have been selling a remedy for neuralgia, which has gained some repute. It is a liquid put up in very small vials, holding about half a drachm each, which are sold at an exorbitant price. The liquid has a strong smell of peppermint, and is in all probability the oil of that plant.—*Med. News and Library*, Jan. 1871.

Editorial.

The Illustrated Christian Weekly.

This excellent publication issued by the American Tract Society, at 150 Nassau St., New York City, is a valuable addition to the religious press of the country and we doubt not will be a welcome visitor to every family. The specimen No. before us is elegantly gotten up as regards the feature of illustration—a novelty in papers of this character—while the matter is readable, instructive and in every way appropriate. Many well known writers have been engaged to contribute to its columns—and if the first No. be an indication of the quality of its successors, we wish the new enterprise all possible success.

Kansas Eclectic Medical Association.

The second annual session of the Kansas Eclectic Medical Association was held at Topeka, Kansas, February 14th, 1871. The deliberations lasted two days and were numerously attended. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President.—G. H. FIELD, M. D., Leavenworth, Kansas.

1st. Vice Pres.—D. B. CROUSE, M. D., Oswego, “

2d. Vice Pres.—N. SIMMONS, M. D., Lawrence, “

Rec. Secy.—A. M. EIDSON, M. D., Topeka, “

Cor. Secy.—C. W. GASSEN, M. D., Montana, “

Treasurer.—S. E. MARTIN, M. D., Topeka, “

After the disposition of all business before the association, it adjourned to meet at Lawrence, Kansas, on the second Tuesday in February, 1872.

Secondary Syphilis.

S. R. NISSLEY, M. D., Pemberton, O. sends us the following prescription which he is in the habit of making with very uniform success in secondary syphilis:

℞ Hydragri Chloridi Corrosivi.....	grs. ii.
Potassi. Iodidi.....	℥ ss.
Fluidi Extracti Taraxaci.....	f. ℥ ii.
“ “ Stillingæ Comp.....	f. ℥ ii.
“ “ Sarsaparillæ.....	f. ℥ i.
Syrupi Aurantii.....	f. ℥ i.

Misce.—Dose, teaspoonful ter die.

Properties—alterative and stimulant. An admirable compound for secondary syphilis, and eminently fitted for the legion of disorders that require alterative treatment.

Practical Notes.

BY THEODORE C. MILLER, M. D.

Carbolic Acid in Otorrhœa.—I found the carbolic acid in two cases where the discharges have been of foetid character of excellent effect.

Paralysis.—To a patient of mine, 65 years of age, I gave the following mixture for paralysis of the lower extremities with complete success:

℞ Fluid Extract Prickly Ash.....		
Tinct. Coloeynth.....	aa	3 i.
“ Arnica.....		3 ii.
Oleum Cajeputi.....		3 ss.

M. D. S. 10 to 15 drops, five times daily.

Phlegmatic Alba Dolens.—A case came under my treatment in which every remedy which had been praised, had been used without the least success. I prescribed Tinct. Chloride of Iron, 15 drops four times daily. Fluid Ext. Prickly Ash 3 ii, Fluid Ext. Valerianæ officin., 3 iv, and gave thereof 25 drops five times a day. The female patient recovered in six days, after confinement to bed for five weeks.

Pleuritis Chronica.—I found in a case of very long standing, the Pyrophosphate of Iron in doses of five grains four times a day, a curative agent. It restored health in four days.

Pneumonia Typhoid.—A gentleman 75 years of age, who had been treated with Veratrum Viride in only small doses, summoned me for advice. I prescribed Musk 12 grains to be given in five doses, and ordered Fl. Ext. Valerianæ 3 i, Syrup Senegæ 3 i, and Acid Benzoicum gr. 12, and hereof ordered given a tea-spoonful every 8 hours; recovered in three days.

Many of our most eminent German Physicians many years ago remarked such cases require tonic, and no depressing agents. We need not always search and learn from modern physicians, for we had able and practical men to father our profession.

Prosopalgia.—In a very severe case I prescribed Musk gr. 1, Podophyllin gr. 1, Xanthoxilin gr. 2. Such a powder morning and night.

Prurigo Vulcæ.—I found a weak solution of Carbolic Acid in two cases of signal service.

Chronic Rheumatism.—I prescribed in one case the following with success:

℞ Podophylli.....	gr. 1.
Cimicifugin.....	gr. 1.
Golden Sulphuret of Antimony.....	gr. 1.

M. f. pulv. S. Three times a day one such powder.

Neuralgia.—The following is a very useful pill, where the neuralgia is of an intermittent form:

℞ Ferri. Hydrocy.....	gr. 18.
Quinia Sulphas.....	gr. 12.
Ext. Opii.....	gr. 1.
Ext Cimicifugæ, q. s. ut f. pil.	

• 12. M. S. Every 3 hours one pill.

Bromo-Chloralum.

COMPOUND OF CHLORINE, BROMINE, ALUMINIUM AND POTASSIUM.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND ACTION.—Styptic, antiseptic, alterative, and a powerful deodorizer and disinfectant.

The attention of the Medical Profession has been directed by Professor GAMGEE of London, to a compound of Chloride of Aluminium, which he called CHLORALUM, as a styptic and antiseptic to be used in place of Carbolic Acid, so objectionable on account of its odor, and of Chloride of Zinc which is equally objectionable on account of its poisonous properties. We have experimented very fully with the article alone and in combination, and the result has proven that in the treatment of many of the affections for which it commended a greater degree of efficacy, is procured by its combination with Bromine—in the preparation to which we have given the name of Bromo-Chloralum, which indicates its exact composition.

In combination with Bromine its practical importance is felt in a far wider range of diseases and their complications, than has been demonstrated in the use of the simple Chloralum. Bromine acts largely as an alterative and stimulant to the lymphatic system, thereby promoting absorption—also, as an anodyne, under certain circumstances, relieving hyperæsthetical sensations; and while it enhances the antiseptic and deodorizing properties of the Chloralum, makes it eminently useful, properly diluted with water, as a topic in *scrofulous ulcers, weak and indolent ulcers, hospital gangrene and highly hyperæsthetical conditions of the throat, diphtheritic affections, gonorrhæa and leucorrhæa.*

The *Lancet* (August 27th, 1870,) says of this preparation :—It is quite as potent as Chloride of Zinc or Carbolic Acid, and is at the same time non-poisonous and devoid of unpleasant smell of every kind. These qualities will, no doubt, ensure its being extensively used, and at no distant date we may expect it to displace the antiseptics which are at present in vogue.

The *British Medical Journal* of Oct. 15th, 1870, says :—“The chemical activity of solutions of Chloride of Aluminium depends to some extent, upon there being so much potential muriatic acid. Ammonia—both the common ammonia, and every variety of fœtid and offensive organic ammonia (and it is substances of this class that produce the different varieties of stink arising from garbage)—is instantly absorbed by these solutions, as it would be by so much acid. Many bad smells which carbolic acid might indeed overpower in virtue of its own strong odor, but which it cannot destroy, are at once removable by chloride of aluminium. The smell arising from putrid fish affords a specially favorable case for exhibiting the powers of chloralum. The agent in general use to which chloralum most closely approximates is chloride of zinc, which, like it, is specially potent against offensive organic ammonias. Suppose that chloride of zinc, instead of being poisonous, were innocuous; that, instead of being corrosive, its strong solution were incapable of damaging textile fabrics; and suppose that its cost price were diminished

to one-tenth, then it might be an adequate representative of the new antiseptic and disinfectant, chloralum."

The Chemist and Druggist Circular, of Oct. 15th, 1870, say: "We mentioned last month that we should make certain experiments with this new antiseptic and disinfectant. As well as we can at present judge—and we have been very careful to arrive at a correct conclusion—chloralum possesses really marvellous antiseptic properties. It is superior in this respect to chloride of zinc, and is not poisonous. A piece of meat, smelling very offensively, soaked in a solution of chloralum, was rendered comparatively sweet in an hour. We confess that we were not so fully satisfied in trying it on drains. It was not by any means a failure, but its action did not seem so prompt as that of carbolic acid. It is sure to be a useful article, but much more extensive experiments are required to appraise its exact value."

"It was last January that Prof. GANGEY commenced his experiments, and soon found that it was as harmless as common salt, and as active—indeed, for some purposes more so, than—the zinc chloride. The latter is so poisonous and corrosive that it is practically excluded from the sick room. Chloralum combines, with great cheapness, the most potent deodorizing properties. It absorbs ammonia and all its fœtid compounds and varieties. It checks the development of sulphuretted hydrogen by arresting decomposition. It has been introduced in hospitals to dress wounds, especially in important amputations; it has been used at the Westminster Hospital, London, and the Royal Infirmary, Manchester, to arrest the horrible fœtor of open cancer; it has been used in ulcers, sore throats, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and many other superficial inflammations. As a purifier of air in a sick room; as an antiseptic in the dead-house; as an agent to be used in embalming bodies; and, indeed, for all general antiseptic and disinfectant properties, it may fairly be said to stand unrivalled. In hot countries, for the preservation of edible substances, chloralum, owing to its perfect harmlessness, will enter very extensively into use; and we doubt not, it will, if possible, take more abroad than at home. In the tropics—in Calcutta, for instance, and even nearer home—the health and comfort of human beings called urgently for the discovery of a new antiseptic like chloralum."—*Home and Export Price Current*.

"Meat dipped in solutions of 1030 to 1040 specific gravity, had a strong astringent flavor; but a retriever dog did not object to make a daily meal off flesh thus preserved, and thrived well on it. I knew from previous work that this chloride was non-poisonous; but I repeated my experiments to satisfy myself on the point, and then commenced preserving fish. I tried large quantities of plaice, soles, cod, whiting, mackerel, haddocks, mullet, and other kinds. Some were bought when far from fresh, and a dip purified them and arrested decomposition. A flabby cod of suspicious appearance became firm, and was good eating after a day's immersion. We had the least success with the mackerel and mullet, and as a rule, none with the fish that had not been cleansed.

"Mr. Frank Buckland aided me in procuring salmon from Thurso, Aberdeen, and Galway, dipped in the solution when caught, and sent up to London without ice. All the fish arrived in good order, and kept several days. A sea trout was dipped in the solution in Aberdeen, exposed to 80° for thirty hours, and then sent up in a box. Mr. Buckland and Mr. Brudenell Carter tasted the fish, and coincided in the judgment formed of it in my household. The trout was firm and of excellent flavor, and in both respects contrasted favorably with salmon that had been transported in ice. The result of these experiments was that the fish would bear immersion for five or six days. The scales softened, and the flavor was somewhat affected by longer immersions. Slices of fish were apt to discolor and lose their flavor in a much shorter time than whole fish; but a salmon split in two would dry slowly and prove good eating many days after being caught. As an aid in the drying of cod on the Newfoundland coast and elsewhere, a mild solution of the chloride would be invaluable, since thousands of tons of fish have been thrown away, when caught in abundance, because they cannot be dried fast enough.

"The chloride of aluminium is a deliquescent salt; but it has a tendency to part with its chlorine, and thus no obstacle is offered to the drying of the fish. These experiments show how safe an agent chloralum is, and every medical man can appreciate the importance of having an inoffensive agent to be used in the sinks, dust-holes, and accumulations of filth and garbage in and around kitchens. A raid on the dust-holes and dust-pans is, probably, next in importance to the disposal and disinfection of sewage, and physicians have never had an antiseptic at their disposal which could safely be used in the dirtiest corners of most dwellings.

"For ordinary disinfecting purposes, solutions varying from 1000° to 1010° specific gravity are quite strong enough. Stronger solutions are usually unnecessary, and impart flavor to edible substances.

"Any one who wishes to try a convincing experiment as to the value of chloralum, should drop some in strong sewage-water. The solid matter is precipitated more rapidly than by the use of a persalt of iron, and the odor disappears. I am quite satisfied that it will aid those who are attempting to deal with the sewage of towns by combined mechanical and chemical means when irrigation is impracticable. It has one great virtue, which Dr. Budd, in a letter to myself, says must belong to "the antiseptic of the future," viz., that it is quite harmless to vegetation. The chlorine combines with ammonia and other bases, and alumina is deposited with the solid organic elements. In the dead-house, the dissecting-room, and museum-laboratory, chloralum will be found invaluable.

"It is most important to increase the number of agents available for sanitary purposes. The destruction of animal poisons, so much neglected a few years since, marks an epoch in medical history which is in pleasant contrast to the days of long prescriptions and infallible cures. Cattle-plague times fortunately brought into fashion the stamping out of a malignant contagia, and for

this purpose, a good antiseptic, which cannot do harm, offend the most delicate nose, nor soil the finest linen, is a great desideratum.

"I have striven to show, for years past, that we have a very distinct and destructive group of diseases in animals—the epizootics proper—propagated through time and space by contagion. Wherever these epizootics appear, antiseptics are of great value to destroy the virus as it is thrown off by the sick animals. All excreta should be disinfected, and all agents which are at all likely to be contaminated by the breath or discharges.

"*In the contagious pleuro-pneumonia* I noted, some years since, that mild cases are controlled, and even cured, by astringent preparations, such as the sesquichloride of iron, and in the earliest stages of exudation the internal use of chloralum would tend to limit the disease. It must be understood that I do not advocate treating cases of pleuro-pneumonia, except when special circumstances render it very desirable to do so. As a rule, the animals do best without medicine, but the early exudation occurs rapidly, much in the same way as hemorrhage and the hæmostatic properties of the chlorides of iron and aluminium render good service.

"*In the foot and mouth disease*, which should never be permitted to reach our farms, a chloralum solution checks the discharge, destroys the virus, favors the cicatrization of ulcers, and may be regarded as the best remedy to be used.

"In conclusion, I wish to direct the attention of surgeons to the use of the hydrated chloride of aluminium in the treatment of wounds, erysipelas, gangrene, and various contagious inflammatory diseases of the superficial parts, such as the contagious ophthalmia of children, soldiers, etc. In fever wards, and every sick chamber, gargles and lotions containing it will frequently be found of use, and linen can be dipped in solutions of it before removal from the sick chamber. It is a powerful styptic, and in the treatment of chronic and acute discharges, hæmorrhage, etc., it is of great value. It is sufficient to have drawn attention to this subject, to ensure the multiplication of experiments; and the more the new compound is tried, the better will it be appreciated."—*The Chemist and Druggist Circular*, Sept. 15th, 1870.

In concluding our notice of what we believe to be one of the most important agents in the treatment of the diseases mentioned above, we have only time to remark that in every instance of its use in our hands it has given entire satisfaction, and we have applied it to tainted meat in order to be convinced of its antiseptic and deodorizing power, with perfect success.

EDS. JOURNAL.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

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Communications.

RHUS GLABRUM.

(*Sumach.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—This genus belongs to the Linnean natural order *Dumosæ*, to the *Anacardiaceæ* of Lindley, and to the *Terebintaceæ* of Jussieu.

In the sexual system, this plant belongs to class *Pentandria*, and order *Trigynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 5-parted, flowers inferior; petals 5; berry 1-seeded, small, sub-globular.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—This shrub grows to the height of from ten to twenty feet; flowers vary in color from green to red, appear in July; branches, petioles and leaves, glabrous; leaves pinnate, many-paired; leaflets lance-oblong, serrate, whitish beneath; fruit silky.

HABITAT.—North America.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Astringent, refrigerant and tonic.

PART USED.—The bark, and that from root is preferable. By some the leaves are employed, also the berries. The bark, leaves and berries contain a large amount of tannin. The berries are official.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.—According to a late analysis of this plant, seven thousand grains of the bark yielded the following constituents:

Albumen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
Gum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Coloring matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	471
Sugar and ext. matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	544
Starch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	260
Gallic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67
Tannic acid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325
Resin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	950
Oleo-resin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47½
Soluble salts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	124
Insoluble salts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	452
Ligneous matter	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3583
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7000

From its analysis, this drug contains a larger amount of tannin than rhatany, and in addition sixty-seven of gallic acid.

HISTORY.—*Rhus*, Gr., *rous*, sumach, from Celtic *rhud* or *rud*, red, from the color of the fruit.

This agent has been employed to some considerable extent in domestic practice in the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery, sore throat, etc. The bark and leaves are said to have been used in tanning leather. Dr. PORCHER observes, p. 238: or rather quotes Dr. ABNER LEWIS HAMMOND as saying, that the *Rhus Glabra* (glabrum) he considers identical with that so extensively grown for export and manufacturing purposes in Sicily. The difference, as seen in the size of the leaves, tree, etc., he says is attributable, no doubt, only to a difference in locality, soil and cultivation, and to no other.

He has seen it flourishing alike on the mountain slopes and in the valleys of Virginia; on the rich table-lands and bottoms of

Kentucky, Tennessee and Illinois, on the flinty ridges and barren mineral lands of Missouri. Under cultivation, he remarks, it suckers freely. Dr. H. adds:—"Looking at its value and importance as a manufacturing agent or material, and its easy production, I have long wondered at its total neglect, and feel no hesitancy in saying that with the same care given to its cultivation by our people as by the Sicilians, it would be as successfully and profitably raised in the one as the other country, and should, under existing circumstances, be neglected no longer. Hundreds and thousands of bags, at a heavy expense, are annually imported into the United States for tanning and other purposes, yielding to the growers, (after expense) a remunerating profit. The berries, the bark of the tree and roots have for years furnished the country people here and in the West a most substantial dye-stuff, (a brilliant black,) while its prepared leaves (ground) have been as steadily used (to the full extent of the available quantity) in the preparation of morocco." It is said that the berries, in country localities, are used for making vinegar.

Mr. C. H. WOODIN, of Charleston, is also quoted by Dr. PORCHER, p. 240, as saying:—"I notice in the *Courier* an inquiry in regard to the use of the sumach, which grows so abundantly in the lower portions of our State. Your correspondent informs us that it is very beneficial in making shoewax, consequently it was called *shoemach*. But the sumach is not only used for making wax, but it is extensively used in the New England and Northern States for tanning purposes. The sumach leaf is invaluable in tanning fine hog skins and skirting, and it is shipped in great quantities from South America to all the principal tanneries in the North."

Sumach is said to form an ingredient in the manufacture of "Killickinick" tobacco. The leaves of this plant were mixed with tobacco and used by the Indians for smoking. The import of sumach to the United States during the year 1868, was 10,595,000 pounds. In Liverpool, the best quality of sumach sells at £ 24 per ton. As an article of commerce, this agent is just beginning to attract attention in some of the Southern States.

The *Norfolk Virginian*, (1868), as quoted by Dr. PORCHER p. 247, says of the sumach trade:—"This new item of interest to

our industrial classes is now attracting much attention in this State, throughout the entire length and breadth of which it flourishes in profusion in a wild state. The material is used largely for the essential principle of tannin, which it contains, and factories for its extraction have been established in this State and elsewhere." The strength of the sumach, is said to be more in the leaf and petiole, than in the bark or berries.

Rhusin is the active principle of the *Rhus Glabra*, and is also obtained from other species of this genus. It is said to be antiseptic, tonic, alterative and astringent. *Rhus Toxicodendron*, a species found in most parts of the United States, has been celebrated in the treatment of paralysis, neuralgia and amaurosis. DU FRESNOI, Dr. ALDERSON, of Hull, and Dr. DUNCAN advised its employment. Dr. ALDERSON, as quoted by WARING, used it successfully in four cases; in each, a peculiar feeling of pricking or twitching preceded permanent benefit. Great caution is said to be necessary in its use, and at present, it is being superseded by strychnia.

THERAPEUTICAL EMPLOYMENT.

Scurvy.—Prof. PAINE has used the rhusin, its active principle, in scurvy. He maintains that this remedy exerts a most healthful influence upon the blood and digestive organs; and says it has been largely and most beneficially used, in combination with iron, and mineral and vegetable acids. He adds:—"As an agent, rhusin has constituted one of my most valuable remedies to combat the general scorbutic tendency, which has been so prevalent the last year or two in this city. The proportion consists in taking two drams of triturated rhusin, four ounces of simple syrup, and one-half dram of nitric acid, from one-half to one dram, administered three or four times a day." The rapidity of the cure of scurvy is said to be generally proportioned to the nutritious quality of the food, together with the variety; but in all cases, fresh vegetables, which contain a large amount of potash, are the most beneficial.

Prof. P. observes that a case came under his charge, of sea scurvy, of a most malignant character. He administered ten grains of the triturated rhusin, in connection with one-half grain of carbonate of iron, every three hours, and allowed his patient

to take, after each dose, one teaspoonful of lemon syrup. This treatment was followed by prompt relief, and in a very short time a permanent cure was effected.

Dysentery.—This article has long been a popular remedy, in many country localities, for the cure of dysentery. After the bowels have been sufficiently moved, and an astringent is indicated, this article, freely administered, promises as much relief as any other agent. Prof. PAINE says, in dysentery, resulting from the presence of zymotic poison, as hospital and camp dysentery, he has been in the habit of compounding rhusin with ptelin and sulphate of potassa, and found it most valuable. In the treatment of cases that do not respond to the use of this article, opium, or acetate of lead and opium should be used in conjunction with it. Most authors, who speak of this plant, advise its use in this malady.

Cholera Infantum.—Dr. PAINE, in speaking of the rhusin, says:—"Many cases of cholera infantum have been relieved most promptly, within the last few months, by the use of this mixture." (Two drams of triturated rhusin, four ounces of simple syrup, and one-half dram of nitric acid). He proceeds:—"It was suggested by a medical friend, that the sulphuric acid mixture would accomplish this purpose without rhusin. This I tried previously without the drug, but was unsuccessful. In combination with vegetable acids, I have used this remedy in a large number of cases." Other remedies, such as small doses of opium, alum, coffee, bismuth, quinine or potassæ chloras may occasionally be of service.

Dr. LEE observes, *Journal Materia Medica*, vol. 1, p. 196:—"A syrup made with fluid extract forms an exceedingly agreeable and useful astringent in the summer complaint, or cholera infantum, as well as in chronic dysentery." "One pound of refined sugar may be added to eight ounces of the fluid extract. When we require, however, its full astringent effect, the fluid extract should be given in doses of one or two drachms every half hour, or hour. The *rhusin*, which is the resinous principle, combined with its tannic and gallic acid, and which may be found among your concentrated preparations, possesses some advantages in certain cases, as it may be given in a more concentrated form. as that of

pill or powder. But for ordinary use, the fluid extract will be found best adapted to internal use, and most acceptable to the stomach."

Chronic Ulceration of the Bowels.—Prof. PAINE says that in many cases of chronic ulceration of the bowels, and disorganization of the tissues, resulting from typhus and typhoid fevers, he has compounded the rhusin with ptelin and sulphate of potassa, and has found it most valuable. He observes:—"Externally this remedy serves as one of the most valuable applications we possess in violent ulcerations and hemorrhoids." In addition to the free use of rhusin and matico, in the treatment of chronic ulceration of the bowels, small doses of sulphate of copper, in combination with opium, will be found serviceable.

Gonorrhœa.—Dr. KING mentions that in decoction or syrup, the bark of the root has been found valuable in gonorrhœa. To expedite the cure, various other remedies may be used alternately, such as the extract of conium, copaiba, cubebs, lupulin, &c.

Leucorrhœa.—Prof. LEE mentions the use of *rhus glabra*, as one of the remedies for leucorrhœa. In some conditions it will be of service to associate with it some of the ferruginous preparations. In cases requiring the use of vaginal injections, for their astringent properties, few remedies can be found equal.

Passive Hemorrhages.—This agent is also suggested by Prof. LEE in the treatment of passive hemorrhages. Some cases will be arrested more speedily, by associating with this agent *secale cornutum*, *ferri perchloridum*, opium, matico or acetate of lead and opium.

Mercurial Salivation.—PEREIRA'S *Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, by Wood, p. 760:—"Almost all parts of this plant contain a large amount of gallo-tannic acid. The bark is often used in tanning. The berries have a sour astringent taste. They owe their acidity to malic acid, which exists in them combined with lime in the form of a bimalate. The infusion has been used as a detergent astringent gargle in common sore throat, and has been especially recommended in mercurial sore mouth."

Dr. PORCHER, in the *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests*, p. 239, quotes Dr. FAHNESTOCK, as speaking highly of an

infusion made from the inner rind or bark of the root, for a wash and gargle in the sore mouth attending inordinate mercurial salivation. Cases that do not readily yield to the use of this remedy, should be allowed two or three doses, daily, of the chlorate of potash, or the iodide of potassium.

Angina.—Prof. LEE observes, *Jour. Mat. Med.*, v. 1, p. 169:—"The *drupes* or berries of the *rhus glabra* possess astringent and refrigerant properties, and their infusion forms a very pleasant and useful drink in febrile complaints, as well as gargle in inflammation and ulceration of the throat. In anginose as well as putrid cynanche of scarlatina, we have known this gargle attended with very beneficial effects."

Diarrhœa.—In domestic practice, this article has been quite extensively employed for the cure of diarrhœa. As an internal remedy, it is apposit to all cases requiring the use of astringents. The fluid extract will be found a very convenient, as well as efficient preparation in the treatment of this malady. It will be beneficial in some instances to alternate its use with small doses of DOVER'S powder, opii, or camphor and opium combined.

The DOVER'S powder is said to form an excellent addition to rhusin, in cases where determination to the surface is indicated.

External Employment.—Prof. LEE observes:—"It may be used with advantage externally, in cases of tetter, psoriasis, pityriasis, offensive ulcers, &c."

Prof. PAINE, in speaking of rhusin, remarks:—"Externally, this remedy serves as one of the most valuable applications we possess in violent ulcerations and hemorrhoids. Ten grains, triturated in one ounce of glycerine, forms a most valuable ointment. I have also used this mixture in an aphthous condition of the mouth, ulceration of the throat following scarlatina and diphtheria, and in chancres and syphilitic ulcers, with decided advantage." A combination of *rhus glabrum* and *solanum dulcamara* will be found beneficial in the treatment of many scaly cutaneous diseases. Whatever local applications may be used for the cure of skin diseases, many cases will occur in which a free use of alteratives should be administered, and that perseveringly.

The Aborigines of this country are said to have used this

agent internally and externally, for the cure of syphilitic affections. Syphilitic ulcers, no doubt, would be much improved by its use.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Dose, 1 to 2 drams.
Rhusin	- - -	" 1 to 2 grains.

TINCTURE OF SUMACH.

Fluid Extract	- - -	four ounces.
Diluted Alcohol	- - -	thirteen ounces.

Dose—half to one ounce.

GARGLE OF SUMACH.

Fluid Extract	- - -	two ounces.
Water	- - -	eight ounces.

Useful in quinsy and ulceration of the mouth and throat; also as a wash for ringworms, tetter, offensive ulcers, &c.

ALETRIS FARINOSA.

(*Star Grass.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Liliacæ, *Linn.*, Asphodeli, *Juss.*, and Hæmodoracæ, of *Brown*.

In the sexual system, this plant will be found in class *Hexandria*, and order *Monogynia*.

PART USED.—Root.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Corol superior, funnel-form, wrinkled, somewhat 6 cleft; the stamens inserted at the base of its divisions; style 3-sided, 3-partable; capsule 3-celled, many seeded, half inferior, opening at the summit when mature.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Leaves linear lanceolate, withering at the tips; scape with alternate pedicelled, mostly farinaceous flowers.

HABITAT.—North America.

POPULAR NAMES.—This plant, in different localities, is called by a variety of names, such as Star Grass, Blazing Star, Aloe Root, Bitter Grass, Unicorn Root, Ague Root, Ague Grass, Star Root, Devil's Bit, Cole Root, &c.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Tonic, emetic, cathartic, and in the recent state, and in large doses, it is said to be narcotic.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION.—The root, on analysis, gives the following results:

Organic Matters	- - - - -	95,833
Inorganic	- - - - -	4,167
Total	- - - - -	100,000
<hr/>		
Gum	- - - - -	4,066
Albumen	- - - - -	0,290
Starch	- - - - -	1,371
Extractive	- - - - -	2,395
Sugar	- - - - -	2,036
Coloring Matter	- - - - -	12,688
Bitter Principle	- - - - -	7,074
Resin	- - - - -	4,566
Soluble Salts	- - - - -	0,448
Insoluble Salts	- - - - -	3,719
Lignin	- - - - -	61,547
Total	- - - - -	100,000

HISTORY.—*Aletris*, Gr. *aliar*, meal; its corol being lined with meal. THOMAS GREEN, in the *Universal Herbal*, printed in London, describes eight species of this genus. There are but two species found in North America, the *A. farinosa* and *A. aurea*. There is said to be very little difference in their medicinal properties. A continued use of it for some days, is said to produce soreness of the mouth. It has been employed to some extent by the vegetable practitioners. It yields its properties to water, and to alcohol. Dr. BIGELOW knew of no plant so intensely bitter as this. PURSH, as quoted by Dr. BIGELOW, and also by PORCHER, speaks of it as an excellent remedy in colic. Dr. BIGELOW observes v. iii, p. 97:—"The powder, in small quantities, produces no immediate visible effect, except that it has appeared to invigorate the appetite. In large doses it disturbs the stomach, and possibly exerts some narcotic effect on the system." The Eclectic physicians laud this remedy in quite a variety of diseases.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Rheumatism.—Dr. BIGELOW observes:—"Dr. CUTLER, in his account of the plants of New England, informs us, that this plant has been considered useful in chronic rheumatism, but does not mention the dose or preparation." Prof. LEE remarks:—"We regard it as an alterative tonic, very similar to hydrastis." He also says, there is some reason to believe that it possesses narcotic properties. Aconite, hyoscyamus, or small doses of colchicum will be found serviceable associated with this agent in the treatment of this malady.

Flatulent Colic.—Writers mention the use of aletris, in flatulent colic as valuable. PURSH and KING refer to its employment. Some cases will respond favorably to a combination of this remedy and zingiber; if relief is not speedily obtained, add a grain of opium to the next dose, and repeat it if necessary.

Dr. KING observes:—"In flatulent colic and borborygmi, a mixture of dioscorein two grains, ginger four grains, and alcoholic extract of aletris two grains, may be divided into two pills. of which one may be given every two or three hours with decided benefit."

Hysteria.—The aletris is recommended by some writers in hysteria.

As the causes of this affection are very various, no single remedy will, in all cases, be found efficient; chloral in doses of fifteen or twenty grains, in most cases, alternated with this agent, will afford prompt relief.

Dropsical Affections.—Dr. THACHER is quoted by PORCHER, as regarding this drug as a good remedy in treatment of dropsical affections.

Intermittent Fever.—Dr. PORCHER remarks:—"Infused in vinegar, it is given in intermittent fever attended with dropsical accumulations.

Dyspepsia.—Prof. LEE says:—"As a tonic stomachic, it is not surpassed by any of our indigenous plants, and for this purpose it is extensively employed as a popular remedy, and in regular practice."

Various Affections of the Female Organs of Generation.—Dr.

KING says, p. 192 of the *American Eclectic Dispensatory*:—"But its most valuable property consists in the tonic influence it exerts upon the female organs of generation, giving a normal energy to the uterus, and thus proving useful in cases where there is an habitual tendency to miscarriage. In chlorosis, amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, and engorged conditions of the uterus, as well as in prolapsus of that organ, it is one of our best vegetable agents. The alcoholic extract is an elegant form in which to employ it in the above affections. In uterine diseases it may be given alone with advantage, or employed in combination with asclepin, scenecia, caulophyllin, or cimicifugin."

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Dose, 10 to 20 drops.
Aletrin	- - -	" 1 to 3 grains.

TINCTURE OF ALETRIS.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	two ounces.
Diluted Alcohol	- - - -	one pint.

Dose—half to one dram.

INFUSION OF ALETRIS.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	two drams.
Water	- - - -	one pint.

Dose—one to two ounces.

SYRUP OF ALETRIS.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	one ounce.
Syrup	- - - -	one pint.

Dose—one to two drams.

PILLS OF ALETRIS.

Solid Extract of Aletris	- -	two grains.
Dioscorein	- - - -	two "
Ginger	- - - -	four "

Make two pills. In flatulent colic and borborygmi.

FATAL POISONING BY THE CICUTA MACULATA.

BY CHARLES A. LEE, M. D.

March 11th, 1871. I was called at 5 P. M. to see James

Powell, aged 15; and Perry, aged 12; who were reported to lie poisoned by eating the roots of the "Wild Parsnip," or "Water Hemlock," *Cicuta Maculata*, also called *Spotted Cowbane*, *Musquash Root*, *Bar Root*, *Snake-weed*, *American Hemlock*, *Wild Carrot*, *Wild Parsnip*, *Mock Eel Root*, &c.

On reaching the house, I found the Powell lad in violent spasms and convulsions, with three strong men endeavoring to control his movements, as he lay extended on the floor. I soon learned the following particulars:

The two boys had been on the banks of a small brook, a short distance from the house, when they noticed some *Horse-radish* roots in the stream. As the plant grew about the place, they gathered the roots in the water, among which were also some of the *Cicuta*, which also grew on the bank, the roots clearly resembling each other. The Powell boy ate the *Cicuta* first, and then the *Horse-radish*, remarking at the same time, that they did not taste alike, and he believed the first he had eaten was something else. This was about two o'clock in the afternoon. They immediately started for the village, a distance of half a mile, and in the course of about an hour both began to complain of sickness of the stomach and dizziness. They then started for their homes. Both fell on the way, and were picked up unconscious and in violent spasms. In this state they were observed to vomit a frothy glairy fluid, but none of the roots were noticed in the matters ejected. The Perry boy was less violently affected than Powell and soon recovered. As already stated I saw Powell soon after 5 o'clock, and found him in severe spasms. Every muscle in the body was affected with powerful clonic spasms; contracting, and then partially relaxing with wonderful rapidity. His movements required four strong men to control; his face was very livid, and even purple from congestion; head hot; the eyes wild and staring, with the pupils dilated to the utmost extent; there was no cessation to the spasms; there was scarcely any pulse to be perceived; a bloody froth issued from the mouth and nose, while the body was covered with sweat.

One drachm of powdered ipecac was given as soon as it could be got down by feeding with a spoon; he was wholly speechless

and evidently unconscious. In the course of half an hour 3 ij. sulph zinc were given in solution, and about two pints of blood taken from the arm, which was black and tar-like in appearance.

As there were still no attempts at vomiting, I poured several quarts of ice water over his head, which with the bleeding relieved the heart and congestion of the face and head; still there was no diminution in the size of the pupils; the eyes glazed, while the expression was staring and wild. In spite of the means employed the convulsions continued, though less strong, for several hours with scarcely any intermission; with occasional convulsive efforts to vomit; during which nothing was ejected but a little water; the medicines administered, and a few small pieces of the poisonous root that had been swallowed. About 8 P. M. the pulse became fuller, and distinct, and 80 per minute; the patient unconscious; pupils much dilated; with only occasional spasms, not severe. Gradually, the limbs and body became comparatively cool; the pulse 130, almost imperceptible; brandy was given freely, and warmth applied to the feet and surface generally. The pulse at times grew stronger, very frequent, then weak, but the breathing was mostly laborious and stertorous, while the heart beat tumultuously. The face became pale, and the extremities cold. Some beef-tea was got down, and this with the brandy and some chloroform were the only remedies given from this time, till death took place at 9 A. M. on the 12th.

Autopsy 24 hours after death. This was made by my friend Dr. P. STEWART of this village.

Rigor Mortis, considerable—a few crimson patches, and discolorations on the sides of the body; moderate swelling over the stomach and bowels; stomach and small intestines completely empty; mucous membrane healthy and natural in appearance except slight softening; no pieces of the root were found; expression of features natural.

Brain and Membranes.

These were intensely congested; all the sinuses and veins lining them were full of blood as well as the *dura* and *pia matter*. The veins in the *sulci* between the cerebral convolutions were also distended. There was no effusion within the ventricles.

During the last Spring several children I am credibly informed, died near Newburgh, N. Y., from eating the root of this plant.

From examining reports of several cases of fatal poisoning from the same cause. (See cases in New York *Medical Repository*, vols. 7, p. 219; v. 3, p. 334, *Boston Med and Surg. Jour.* vols., 9 p. 10; v. 12, p. 107. *Trans. Am. Phil.* v. 3, p. 234. *Bigelow's Med. Botany*, vol. 1, &c.

The symptoms in all the cases appear to have been very similar, viz: those of the *acro-narcotics*, where specific action is exerted chiefly upon the *cerebro-spinal* system; producing delirium, stupor and convulsive spasms of the most violent kind; the muscular contractions being alternated with relaxations; great dilation of the pupils;retchings and attempts at vomiting with bloody frothing at the mouth and nose; the convulsive agitations being so powerful and incessant as to render the pulse almost indistinguishable; very frequent respiration; attempts to provoke vomiting by emetics being for the most part entirely futile; death resulting from exhaustion of the vital forces, or asthenia.

In a similar case I should not use emetics or even a stomach-pump, if the specific effects of the root had manifested themselves, for after the poison has been already introduced into the blood, we must seek to counteract its action by the introduction of *antidotes*, if such there are. From the extreme dilatation of the pupil and other symptoms, I would advise the sub-cutaneous injection of *sulph. morphia*, say $\frac{1}{2}$ a grain every 15 minutes till the spasms cease. Probably a boy of 12 or 14 laboring under the full effects of the poison, might have several grains of morphia injected, not only with impunity but with the greatest advantage.

Considering the large number of persons fatally poisoned by the root of this plant, every year, the subject is well worthy of further confirmation or investigation.

For analysis, descriptions, &c., see article appended.

N. B. The Editors of this *Journal* would respectfully suggest, that the above article or the substance of it, owing to the great importance of the subject, be copied by the conductors of newspapers generally, by way of caution in regard to eating this root.

[Continued from Journal of Materia Medica, December, 1870.]

REMARKS ON THE AMERICAN NATURAL ORDERS OF PLANTS, WITH REFERENCE CHIEFLY TO THEIR MEDICINAL APPLICATIONS AND PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS.

BY CHARLES A. LEE, M. D., PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA.

ANEMONE.—Of the *wind-flower*. There are six North American species, several of which have been used in regular practice. The *A. Pulsatilla*, according to some writers, is the meadow anemone of Europe, the herbaceous part of the plant being employed. There is a peculiar volatile, crystallizable solid called *anemonine* obtained from this plant by distilling with water, and setting the product aside; it crystallizes in brilliant white needles; its formula being C_{15}, H_6, O_6 . Alkalies convert it into *anemonic acid*. A solution of it has been used externally by the Eclectic School in scald head, ulcers, caries, indurated glands, venereal nodes, paralysis, amaurosis, cataract, and opaque cornea, while its internal use is regarded as questionable. It has however been tried by some practitioners of this School internally, in doses of one or two grains of the dried leaves, in secondary syphilis, cutaneous diseases, whooping-cough, &c. It is doubtless an acrid poisonous plant, whose value in disease is not yet settled; but which in considerable doses, will produce nausea, vomiting, purging, hematuria, &c. In Minnesota, and some other Western States, we are informed the *A. Sudoviciana* is pretty extensively employed by this School in the diseases above-mentioned, especially secondary syphilitic diseases. The Indians use the *A. Cylindrica* for the cure of rattlesnake bite, by chewing some of the tops of the plant, swallowing but little of the saliva, and then applying it to the bite. All the anemones are said to be useful in menstrual suppression.

HEPATIC.—The *Liver-leaf* is a well known plant, consisting of a single species, though there are two varieties, differing in the shape of the leaf, recognized by GRAY as two distinct species; and formerly regarded by LINNÆUS as a species of *Anemone*. The *H. Triloba*, with rounded leaves, is the most common variety in the Northern States, though the *H. Acutiloba*, with acute and spreading leaves is also often met with, with pale purple, pink, or nearly white leaves.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—These are not very important, though it is regarded as a mild demulcent tonic, and slightly astringent. It has enjoyed some reputation as a pectoral in pulmonary affections, with diuretic and deobstruent virtues. At one time it was employed a good deal in hepatic affections, and as a remedy in coughs and hemoptysis. It is, no doubt, useful in diarrhoea and dysentery, as a tonic, demulcent drink in the form of infusion of the leaves. LINDLEY seems to regard it as simply a mild astringent, but its demulcent properties are more decided and important. (See "*Supplement to Journal of Materia Medica*," p. 49.)

THALICTRUM.—The *Meadow Rue* is a very common North American plant, growing in moist meadows, and bearing a considerable resemblance to the *Anemone*. There are three species of the plant, common to all parts of the country; the *Anemonides*, *T. Dicicum* and *Cornuti*.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—These are very slight and unimportant; resembling probably those of the *Anemone* to which it is allied. Judging from its sensible properties, which often indicate physiological action, we should not call the plant entirely inert. RAFINESQUE states that some of the native species in Canada, are deemed efficacious in the bites of venomous snakes, and as a resolvent in contusions. A peculiar principle, *Thalictrine*, has been obtained by Mr. LEON, from some of the species which he describes as useful in intermittents, in doses of 10 or 15 grains.

RANUNCULUS.—There are 17 described North American species (GRAY) of the *Crow-foot* or *Butter-cup*, though DE CANDOLLE enumerates 140 and upwards, many of which have extremely active properties. The whole order derives its name from this genus, though it is an order having strong affinities with several others, none of which, in the natural arrangement, are widely apart from each other. Hence, the diverse character of the various plants belonging to it.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Nearly all the species of this genus are acrid and caustic, when fresh, but nearly inert, when dried, the active principle being very volatile. This acrid, volatile principle, which is destroyed by the action of heat, and by simply drying the plant, may be easily separated by distillation, and kept, for a long time in closely stopped bottles, without losing its acrid

virtues. These, no doubt, are owing to a peculiar principle, hitherto undetected and non-isolated. Chewing the leaves, causes much pain and inflammation in the mouth, and sometimes excoriation, and if any of the juice be swallowed, much heat and pain in the stomach follow. The distilled water, in doses of a drachm, acts as a most violent and speedy emetic.

USES.—The plant is too active for safe internal use, but the leaves may be employed externally for vesicatory effects. In persons of a delicate skin, vesication will often follow their application in half an hour. In some, unless carefully watched they cause deep and extensive ulcerations, difficult to heal. They might probably, be used beneficially as counter-irritants, in rheumatism, neuralgia, &c.

COPTIS.—The well known *Gold Thread* is chiefly confined to the northern sections of our country, growing in swamps and boggy woods; too well known to need further description.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—A pure and powerful bitter, without any astringency, one of the most palatable, and eligible tonics, where such articles are indicated. It is used very successfully as a local application in apthous and other ulcerations of the mouth. The tincture is much commended in atonic dyspepsia; also as an elegant stomachic. TILDEN'S *Fluid Extract*, in doses of from one half a drachm to one drachm, is a very eligible mode of using the article.

HELLEBORUS.—The *H. Viridis*, belonging to this order, is found growing extensively on L. Island, near Brooklyn and Jamaica, but it is not native to N. America, and has been evidently introduced from Europe.

DELPHINIUM.—There are several species of *Larkspur*, indigenous to North America, and some of the more common varieties have been introduced from Europe. It is best known as an ornamental plant in gardens.

MEDICAL USES.—The *D. Staphisagria* from which the alkaloid *delphinine* is obtained, is not natural to North America, but confined to the South of Europe. It is found, however, in the *D. Consolida*, so common in Virginia and the other Middle States,

having been introduced, probably, in the seeds of grain and thus propagated. Our native species, so far as known, have never been analyzed, and it is therefore unknown whether they possess the alkaloid *delphinine*, or not.

ACONITUM.—There are but three or four species of Monk-hood indigenous to North America. These are believed to be all acrid and poisonous; but it is chiefly the foreign varieties that are cultivated for the beauty of their flowers. The *A. Napellus* is the most common, and containing when cultivated, a large per centage of *Aconitia*.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—The active principle is too powerful to use internally, but may be employed externally with success, in the form of ointment, in the strength of sixteen grains to one ounce of lard, and half a drachm of olive oil, well mixed, and rubbed over the painful part for several minutes, or till a tingling sensation is produced; or, eight grains of *Aconitina* may be dissolved in two fluid ounces of alcohol and used as before; only being careful not to apply to an abraded surface.

ZANTHORIZA.—This genus has but one species native of this country, the *Z. Opiifolia*, *Shrub Yellow Root*, and is found nowhere else. Its tinctorial properties, which were well known to the Indians, first attracted attention to this plant. It colors wool a drab color, and silk of a rich yellow, with a proper mordant, it will also color linen and cotton.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—This plant has the properties only of a pure simple bitter, most marked in the bark; dependent on the presence of gum and resin. It is a more powerful bitter than Columbo, and equally useful in cases to which agents are adapted. It may be used in tincture, fl. extract, decoction or powder. Proof spirit is its best menstruum, though water has been said to extract its virtues.

HYDRASTIS.—There is but one species of this genus peculiar to North America, viz: the *H. Canadensis* which generally goes under the name of *Yellow Root* or *Golden Seal*, common to most parts of the U. S. Used also by the Indians as a dye, imparting a brilliant yellow color which is permanent. Contains a peculiar principle *hydrastin*, C44, H24, NO12, also a resin *hydrastin*.

MEDICAL USES.—A powerful bitter tonic (See full description of the properties of this plant, in the "*Supplement to the Journal of Materia Medica*, p. 51.)

ACTÆ.—There are two varieties of the oily species of this plant, natives of North America, viz: *A. Spicata* and *A. Alba*, which go under the name of white and red *Baneberry*, or *Cohosh*.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—An acrid irritant emetico-cathartic, with narcotic, poisonous properties. The fresh root has a sickening odor, and an acrid bitter, disagreeable taste; the berries are actively poisonous, causing delirium, mental hallucination, gastric irritation and death. The decoction or infusion of the root acts as a violent cathartic; also destroys parasitic insects, used as a wash; also has emenagogue properties, but rarely used internally—often mistaken for the *Cimicifuga*; the two generally being often confounded, especially by foreign writers.

CIMICIFUGA.—This is the *Macrotys* the *Batrophis* of RAFINESQUE, and has two species; the *C. Racemosa*, (*Black Snake-root*) and the *C. Americana*, (*American Bugbane*.) It also goes under the name of *Black Cohosh*, *Squaw Root*. It is the *Acetæ Racemosa* of LINNEUS. The root.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—This plant is a stimulating tonic, and increases the secretions of the skin, kidneys and lungs, with some specific action on the uterus. It also has decidedly sedative virtues; reducing the force and frequency of the pulse; its tonic and anti-periodic power in fevers is generally acknowledged. Dr. TULLY recommends it as a substitute for Ergot in parturition. It also has a sedative power over the nervous system, allaying cough, and nervous excitability; hence, very useful in chorea, hysteria, epilepsy, asthma and other nervous affections. It is also celebrated as a remedy in rheumatism, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea and leucorrhea. It contains a resinoid principle, *Cimicifugin*, which is anti-spasmodic, tonic, diaphoretic, expectorant, alterative narcotic, and ecboic. The "*Black Cohosh Compound*" of the TILDENS, proves powerfully alterant, tonic and expectorant; stimulating all the secretions; having a marked influence over the pulmonary organs, diminishing the pulse, while it improves the functions of the digestive organs. (See *Supplement to Journal of Materia Medica*, p. 24—5.)

IRON IN MIASMATIC DISEASES.

BY S. P. CRAWFORD, M. D., COLLEGEVILLE, CALIFORNIA.

In my article on the antidotal powers of tobacco in miasmatic fevers, I did not claim for it any curative properties, but only an immunity from attack in many cases of those who use it. I come now to speak of their cure, and especially the value of iron in all miasmatic or periodic diseases.

In my article on the typography of this valley, I stated that its waters were strongly alkaline, though not unpleasant to the taste; but of their chemical composition I am not informed. They contain silica, alumina, potassa, and soda. Water is beneath the surface, and is had, by boring, anywhere from fifteen to twenty feet. The continued use of this water renders the blood anæmic. Add to this the long, dry, hot summer, with the thermometer ranging from 100° to 110°, and you have the best possible condition of system for miasma to revel in. The water and heat are powerfully exhausting to the vitality of the system. The water dissolves and washes out the fibrine of the blood, while the heat oxidises and rapidly consumes the elements of vital energy. Hence, in the latter part of summer, and the fall months, we have diseases of the periodic type, such as intermittent or remittent fevers, neuralgia, hemicrania, *coup de soleil*, &c.

Of the theory of the vegetable origin of miasma I am not satisfied. There is nothing here to demonstrate, in the remotest form, such an origin.

Vegetation *dies* in June, consequently its "*breath*" is wafted, by the *kuso-sciro*, beyond the Nevadas, long before the diseases of the season begin. Wheat and barley are all the vegetables that are here. The ground that has not these growing crops, is ploughed in the winter, and is as bare of vegetation in summer as the streets of your city. Barley and wheat are harvested in May and June. The stubble is consumed by stock, or burned off after harvest. No rain falls from May to November; consequently there is little or no decay of vegetable matter at this season of the year. In July and August fever begins, and continues until the rains come. Pulmonary diseases, and fevers of the continued type, prevail during the winter and spring months. I would rather suspect the cause of periodicity of certain diseases to be connected with a negative state of electrical agency. The withdrawal of this agency, which is the universal nervous stimulant, from an anæmic and an already enervated system, will account, I

think, for that class of diseases. The relation that heat and moisture bear to each other, in this valley, will account for the negative condition of that agency. But I did not set out to condemn, nor to offer theory, but to speak of the use of iron in the cure of *miasmatic* diseases. I know no better way to speak of the value of iron, than to report a few cases of treatment with it.

Miss W—, aged 12 years, was brought to me for advice. She had had chills for two years—had never been able to stop them more than a month at a time—chills every third day. Had been to quite a number of doctors—taken quinine and bitter tonics *ad nauseam*. For the last few months, she had quit the doctors and gone to the quacks and nostrums—had gulped down “Oil of Gladness,” “Little Giant,” and “Walker’s Bitters,” all to no purpose.

The patient was pale, anæmic with dropsical condition of the lower extremities, and general anasarca. Liver and spleen enlarged. Appetite at times voracious, at other times wanting. Patient was extremely feeble; she had suffered so much with hemicrania, that her mind was weakened, almost demented.

I scanned the situation, and thought I had a clue to relief, and told her mother I thought her daughter could be cured. She gave me a scornful look as much as to say, “You can’t do it.” She had come, she said, “merely to get my opinion.” She had lost hope—had no faith in doctors, quacks, or nostrums. It is not often that hope wanes in nostrums; but so it was in this case. I made a prescription—a *disguised* prescription. I gave quinine, disguised with the sub-car. ferri, in sufficient doses to arrest the chill on the third day. Gave her the following:

R Sub. carb. iron.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ ss.
Quinine.....	30 grs.
Simple syrup.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ vi.

Teaspoonful four times a day.

She never had another chill. Continued the iron and syrup, without the quinine, for three months. She soon recovered, and has been in excellent health for a year.

CASE II. Was a little girl of eight years, sent to me from the city. She had chills for more than a year, and her general condition was much the same as the first case. Gave her three doses of quinine, three grains to the dose. Put her on the sub. carb. ferri. She had no more chills, and recovered her health rapidly.

CASE III. Was an adult male, aged 40 years. He had been subject to chills for four years. Had not been free from them more than a month at a time at any time during the four years. He came from an adjoining county, a distance of some forty miles. He had went the usual rounds of quinine and nostrums. Gave him fifteen grains of quinine, in three doses, to be taken an hour apart previous to the expected chill. Put him upon the iron immediately, as in the other cases, and sent him home. In two weeks he came back much improved. Had had no chill. Continued the use of iron, this time the tinct. ferri., mur., twenty drops four times a day. The patient is now well, and has been free from chills for four months.

In cases of remittent and intermittent fevers, so soon as my patients are convalescent from the first onset, I put them upon the use of iron, which I direct them to continue for some weeks, and even months. In hemicrania, and the neuralgias generally, iron is my sheet-anchor.

The iron counteracts the influences that the water and heat have upon the blood, keeps it no doubt, supplied with fibrine, prevents anæmia, and strengthens the powers of resistance in the system. But the *modus operandi* I shall not discuss at present.

My formula for the administration of the sub. carb. ferri, is, no doubt, a little *informal*. I put from a half-ounce to an ounce (according to the quantity I want taken at a dose) in a six-ounce bottle; pour in simple syrup to fill the bottle, and "shake well before taken." If the powder and syrup are too thick, add a little water.

I hope my metropolitan brothers will not laugh at this, because there are so many more elegant forms for the administration of this remedy. Recollect that I am my own apothecary, have always been on the out-post, standing picket, as it were, with little of the appliances belonging to medicine, and cannot supply myself with all the elegant forms for the administration of drugs. I can have but few remedies, and they must be reliable. It matters not how they taste, or how they go down, so they go down. I cannot send prescriptions to the drug-man to have them spiced and flavored to taste. I never write prescriptions; the fact is, I don't know how. I have no *carminatives*, "to expel wind, either up or down, to suit the *fancy* of the patient." I preside over my own "doctor shop," *otium cum dignitate*, if the jars and bottles do sometimes get full of flies and spiders. My position is one of labor—brain labor, nerve and muscle labor. Like the farmer on a small scale, that has to work in the field, barn-yard, garden, potato-patch—cut wood, do *chores*, rock the baby, and go to mill, besides. So I have to be

chemist, druggist, apothecary, obstetrician, dentist, surgeon, corn and cancer doctor, all on the same day. Who wouldn't be a country doctor? But, *satis superque*.—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, April, 1871.

QUINIA IN CROUP.

Dr. E. MACFARLAN, in the *New York Journal of Medicine* for Nov. 1854, p. 364 (vol. xiii. N. S., No. 3), claims for quinia great curative powers in croup, and he relates four cases, the first of which can hardly be considered as one of croup, since the laryngeal spasm was caused by a fungous body in the trachea. The other three were cases of spasmodic croup, which every experienced physician knows to be rarely fatal.

More recently additional statements have been published to show the therapeutic powers of quinia in croup (see Nos. of this Journal for Oct. 1870. p. 579, and Jan. 1871, p. 290), but the form of croup in which it is beneficial is but vaguely stated.

Dr. H. N. EASTMAN, Prof. of Practical Medicine in Geneva Med. College, N. Y., a paper published in the *Buffalo Med. Journal* for Jan. 1871, highly extols the efficacy of quinia in croup in all its forms. He contends that there is no essential difference between croup in children and laryngitis of maturer years, though each is marked by peculiarities incident to the circumstances of age, and he advocates the exhibition of quinia, therefore, not only in spasmodic laryngitis, but where "deposition" has actually taken place, the quinia acting in the latter case as an anti-phlogistic. "Here large quantities only are available," he says. "I would not administer less than from fifteen to thirty grains in twenty-four hours, to a child a year old or over. In these desperate cases it requires double the amount of quinia to subdue an existing inflammation and arrest the further effusion of lymph that is needed to prevent the deposition of coagulable matter during the intermissions or remissions that occur in the congestive stage." Nor is there anything to be apprehended from this heroic use of the article in violent cases of croup in young children in the latter stage. I have resorted to it in some few cases with complete success, and never with any alarming or untoward symptoms. Indeed, there seems to be almost a complete tolerance of this wonderful remedy in croup or puerile laryngitis."

The only case in regard to which Dr. E. favors us with any details is, however, evidently one of spasmodic laryngitis, coming on, as is usual in that disease, in a paroxysm at night, and recurring about the same hour on subsequent nights for two or three nights. In this case, a girl about 3½ years old, he gave five grains of quinia about two hours before the anticipated exacerbation, and an hour afterwards a similar dose. The next night the same treatment was repeated, and the child had no further trouble. Croup being endemic in his neighborhood, Dr. E. had subsequent opportunities of trying this treatment, and he says: "I do not now recollect a single instance of croup, when I was called in any season, that is, while there remained any considerable intermissions, or even remission, in the earlier part of the twenty-four hours, which nearly always occur in every form of the disease during the earlier stage, where I failed to subdue the malady and restore the patient at once to ordinary health. I have now just as much confidence in the power of quinia to arrest croup as I have in its efficacy in subduing any ordinary intermitting or periodical disease."

"I do not hesitate," he adds, "to give seven or eight grains to a child six months old, in any periodical disease, within a few hours. With less than this quantity I have seldom witnessed any satisfactory effect. For a child one year or more I much prefer ten grains, as this amount, given either in several divided doses during the whole period of repose, or, what I think quite as well, in two or three parts at short intervals, so that the whole amount be administered at least one hour or two before the expected paroxysm or exacerbation, seldom if ever fails to entirely put a stop to the disease."—*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, April, 1871.

A CASE OF ASCITES SUCCESSFULLY TREATED BY OIL OF COPAIBA, UNDER CARE OF DR. SIEVEKING.

William H——, aged 45 years, a coachman, was admitted (in St. Mary's Hospital) on the 12th of August. He stated that, nine weeks previously, he had had an attack of diarrhœa, which was soon checked by medicine; but a week later he felt pain in the abdomen, especially over the region of the spleen, and shortly afterwards noticed that his

abdomen began to enlarge. The pain and swelling gradually increased until admission. He was then in intense pain; the abdomen was greatly distended, shining, and dull on percussion; the superficial veins congested; the skin hot and dry; the tongue furred; the pulse 94; the urine scanty, never more than 15 oz. being passed in a day, high-colored, but not albuminous. Mercurials, salines with iodide of potassium, iron, and an occasional opiate, together with the application of leeches, poultices, and blisters, were tried for a considerable time; and although the treatment relieved the pain, it did not diminish the effusion, which, on the contrary, seemed to increase, the abdomen measuring 39 inches round the umbilicus.

On the 12th of October the patient was much worse, the lungs becoming implicated, as indicated by pain, dyspnoea, cough, and dullness on percussion. He was ordered to take ten minims each of oil of copaiba and liquor potassæ, in an ounce of camphor mixture, three times a day.

14th. Dyspnoea less, abdomen softer, and urine more abundant.

16th. No dyspnoea. Measurement of umbilicus, 37 inches. Amount of urine passed during the last twenty-four hours, 30 ounces. To take twenty, instead of ten, minims of oil of copaiba in each dose of the mixture.

18th. Has been obliged to leave off the mixture, owing to its making him sick. Feels rather fuller in the abdomen.

20th Resumed the copaiba mixture.

21st. Much better; measures round umbilicus, 33½ inches. Amount of urine passed during the twenty-four hours, 50 ozs.

25th. Measures at umbilicus, 34 inches. Urine passed yesterday, 32 oz.

From that time he continued to improve, the thoracic symptoms disappearing, and the size of the abdomen decreasing.

On Nov. 3rd he measured 33 inches, and, on the 11th, 32 inches, and was ordered to leave off the copaiba mixture, and to take an ounce of iron and quinine mixture twice a day.

On Nov. 18th he only suffered from weakness, and on the 24th he was discharged quite well.—*London Lancet*.—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, April, 1871.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC HYDROCEPHALUS.

EXTRACT FROM CLINIC BY PROF. N. S. DAVIS,

The books give no encouragement for the treatment of these cases. There are two methods, however, that have been proposed, the one surgical and the other medical. The late Prof. Brainard was one of the first, I believe, to attempt the cure of these cases by the insertion of a small trochar, allowing a little of the fluid to escape, and then injecting a weak solution of iodine and iod. of potass. into the cavity. The theory was, that the contact of the iod. with the surface of membranes would stop further effusion. Some considerable disturbance, nervous twitching, etc., were produced at the time of the injection. These symptoms passed away in a short time, and no further effects were manifest from it. In one case, I think, he repeated the injection as many as six or seven times. No case of successful result from this operation has, however, been recorded.

The objects that I have attempted to accomplish by treatment in these cases has been, first to allay the morbid excitement of the cerebral structures, and second to exert a gentle, persistent, and long-continued alterative and diuretic influence, avoiding carefully any impairment of the digestive organs. I have succeeded in accomplishing these purposes by the following prescription:

℞ Fl. Ex. Scutellaria.....	℥ ii.
Tinct. Digitalis.....	℥ ss.
Iod. Potass.....	℥ ij.
Fl. Ext. Hyoscyamus.....	℥ ss. M.

Dose, 20 drops; four times a day, in sweetened water.

If the digitalis is found to be exerting too much influence, the dose must be diminished.

Mercurials are of no advantage in the chronic stage. During the early inflammatory stage, mercurials, combined with mild laxatives, might check the progress of the disease; and if promptly followed by efficient doses of the iodide of potassa, any considerable effusion would be prevented, except in such cases as are complicated with tubercular deposits. If effusion does take place, and the case becomes chronic, it will be better to unite the iodide with the digitalis, scutellaria, etc., as in the formula already given to you.—*Chicago Medical Examiner.*

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

THE DOSE OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.—During the last few weeks our attention has several times been called to the failures and disappointments which are experienced in the use of bromides for nervous affections, on account of the too small dose that has been employed. The most striking of these is a case that we shall probably publish at length elsewhere; but the heads of it may be interesting here.

A young lady of great intellectual activity suffered from a severe certico-occipital and triguinal neuralgia, attended with cerebral excitement and intractable insomnia, the chief cause of which was, very obviously, mental, but which was greatly aggravated by the cold weather. Ten, fifteen, and twenty grain doses of bromide did nothing for her. The dose was raised to thirty grains thrice daily, and, after four of them, she fell into a sleep, which lasted fourteen hours, and awoke almost entirely cured; the pain not returning at all, and the mental excitement completely subsiding.

In a second case, a girl at the Westminster hospital suffered from the most frightful and frequently-recurring epileptic fits, which were threatening speedily to reduce her to dementia. It was only when the allowance of bromide was raised to 120 grains daily that any impression was produced; but then the improvement was speedy and decided, the fits becoming only one third as frequent as they had been. —*London Practitioner.*—*Baltimore Reprint.*—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, April, 1871.

CARBOLIC ACID AS A REMEDY FOR CARBUNCLE.—Dr. J. C. NOTT reports (*New York Medical Journal*, January, 1871) the case of a gentleman about fifty years of age, who had suffered severely with carbuncles on his back. When Dr. N. saw him there was a carbuncle, with several small honey-comb openings in the centre, and surrounded by the usual inflammation and hardness, covering a space about the size of the palm of the hand. It was very painful, presented all the characteristics of a severe carbuncle, and Dr. N. thought the patient would make a good escape if he got off with a slough as large as a silver dollar. Dr. N. made a deep incision into it about an inch and a quarter, and stuffed it with cotton saturated with the pure carbolic

acid. He also painted over the whole surface of the hardened mass with the acid. The patient complained of a sharp burning sensation for a few minutes, when the pain subsided completely. The cuticle, by the next day, came off, and the surface looked like a burn.

After the first few minutes he was free from pain, and never complained of any afterward. Dr. N. continued every day for a week to insert the acid, in the same way, into the cut, which sloughed all around to the depth of one-eighth of an inch; the surrounding inflammation and induration subsided rapidly, and in a week there was nothing left to treat but the small open wound made by the knife and acid. Three other small carbuncles commenced, an inch or two from the large one; they were all treated by incision and the acid, and they all aborted.—*American Journal of Med. Sci.*, April, 1871.

IODIDE OF POTASSIUM IN THE TREATMENT OF NEPHRITIS PARENCHYMATOSA.—In order to check the growth of connective tissue around the Malpighian bodies in the second stage of bright's disease, and thus to arrest the albuminuria, Dr. Caspari experimented with iodide of potassium on five patients, in three of whom he obtained favorable results. He states that he has also received satisfactory reports from Professor Crequi, of Brussels, and from Dr. Bandon and Prof. Semmala, of Naples, who have adopted this mode of treatment. The plan pursued by Prof. Crequi consists in administering a daily dose of from 30 to 45 grains and increasing this by 15 grains per diem till it reaches the amount of from 100 to 225 grains. Still larger doses may be administered, providing the system does not lose its tolerance for the drug, in which case the quantities given must be diminished. With the larger doses it is advisable to add opium or nitrate of bismuth. In cases where there is much debility, iodide of iron may be added to the iodide of potassium, or a little quinine may be given.—*Deutsche Klinik*.—*Baltimore Reprint*.—*Nashville Journal of Med. and Surgery*, April, 1871.

PRESCRIPTION FOR PRURITUS.—It is said that no remedy is comparable with this acid, in pruritus of the genital organs of both sexes, prepared thus:

R. Alcohol.....	℥ vi.
Acid hydrocyan.....	3 iss. M.

S. Apply to the parts twice or thrice a day.

We know this to be good in this very annoying and troublesome

affection. Dr. Thompson says that no expedient is so salutary for the intolerable itching of erysipelatous and erythmatous eruptions, as a solution of prussic acid, which may be made by adding one or two drams of the acid to a pint of water. Another lotion used by Dr. Thompson is made in the following manner:

R	Acid hydrocyan.....	3 ii.
	Acet plumbi.....	gr. xvi.
	Alcohol.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ ss.
	Aquæ dist.....	$\frac{3}{4}$ viii. M.

S. To be applied three or four times a day.—*Georgia Medical Companion*.—*Nashville Jour. of Med. and Surgery*, April, 1871.

TREATMENT OF CHILBLAINS.—MR. FERGUS calls attention to the salve of sulphurous acid in the treatment of this affection. It should be applied either with a camel-hair brush, or, better, by means of a spray-producer. One application by the latter method usually effects a cure. The acid should be used pure, and he finds Clark's spray-producer the best when both hands are free; Richardson's when only one is so. A good wash for hands or feet affected with chilblains is sulphurous acid three parts, glycerine one part, and water one part. The acid is particularly useful in the irritating, tormenting stage of chilblains.—*Lancet*.—*Practitioner*.—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, April, 1871.

TREATMENT OF ENLARGED TONSILS.—A writer in the *British Med. Journal* states that in chronic cases of enlarged tonsils he has never seen any permanent good from incision, but has obtained the best results from alum, either as a gargle or in powder, applied with a damp brush, or as a dust of equal parts of burnt alum and gum-arabic, blown upon the parts with an india rubber bottle. The applications require to be persevered in. Another physician thinks the sulphate of potassa in doses of from five to fifteen grains, given every morning for five or six weeks, almost a specific for enlarged tonsils in children. Should the remedy produce purging, the dose should be lessened.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

CHRONIC CATARRH.—The tincture of aconite in five drop doses every four hours has cured this troublesome symptom when the ordinary remedies have failed.—*Medical Archives*.—*American Practitioner*, March, 1871.

GONORRHEA.—DAVIS L. FIELD, M. D., of Jeffersonville, Ind., writes that he has had very marked success in the treatment of this affection by the use of the following: Bromide of potash, two ounces; water, four ounces. Dissolve, and add tinct. iodine, three drachms. Of this he gives a tea-spoonful every four hours. If it produces headache, he uses the medicine less frequently, but continues it until the discharge is arrested, which he finds to be usually within four or five days. He administers a saline cathartic every other morning, and directs weak injections of sulphate of zinc—one drachm to a pint of water—three or four times a day; and insures cleanliness of the parts by having them bathed often in cold water. He has not found his patients to suffer from chordee, or be troubled with venereal desire, while on this treatment.—*American Practitioner*, March, 1871.

TREATMENT OF GRANULAR LIDS.—R Tannin, 5 parts, distilled water, 20. Dissolve, and add ten of gum arabic, and strain. This is a most valuable application in granular lids and other affections of the eye. In chronic varicose ophthalmia, one to three drops of creosote to one ounce of water makes a valuable collyrium, dropped into the eye several times daily.—*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, April, 1871.

Editorial.

Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound in Scrofulous Abscesses, Caries, Tumors, Neuralgia, &c.

Was called August 10, 1869, to P. V., æt. 12, Irish, of a scrofulous diathesis. He had been under medical treatment for several months without appreciable relief. At the request of the attending physician I was summoned to take charge of the case. I learned that the boy was first attacked with pain and swelling in the hip, simulating acute rheumatism, which subsequently terminated in a large abscess, which required opening. Suffering intense, necessitating the constant employment of morphine in large doses for several weeks, the pain continued in violence, until abscess after abscess appeared, one on hip, one in groin, two on leg below the knee and one above—in all five. The draught upon the vitality of the system was so profuse and debilitating, that in a very short time the patient had not strength sufficient to enable him to rise from the bed. The appetite became poor, the secretions scanty, which together with the insomnia and general

cachexia, apparently foreshadowed speedy dissolution. My treatment was confined to alteratives, such as Iodine, Iodoform, Iodide of Potassium, Carbolic Acid, (as a topic and internally) Arsenical preparations and the Phosphates—to tonics, such as Elixir of Iron, Quinia and Strychnia, Chemical Food and Ferrated Wine of Wild Cherry, and of this class of remedies, the "Ferrated Wine of Wild Cherry," manufactured by TILDEN & Co., was the only agent which appeared to affect the system. This restored the appetite and thus far immeasurably benefited my patient—though further than that the disease remained unchecked and my treatment abortive. The suppuration continued profuse and portions of dead bone were from day to day extracted. Several physicians of large experience saw the patient with me, though they suggested no alteration of the plan of treatment.

At this stage of the disease, I read in the *Journal of Materia Medica* a notice of a new remedy, the "Elixir of Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Comp." highly commended for its alterative properties and especially its power in combating scrofulous cachexia, &c. I wrote to Messrs TILDEN & Co. for it, and received a bottle by express. I directed my patient to take one teaspoonful three times a day—the medicine being rather agreeable he expressed a preference for it, rather than the remedies he had been using. Upon visiting the boy after a few days, I was surprised at the marked improvement observed in the appetite and general indications of the case. I advised him to continue its use, gradually increasing the dose. In one week's time the mother calling at my office remarked, "my boy is better." During the day I saw the boy, and found the discharge was less profuse and had a more healthy appearance. Improvement continued *uninterrupted*; no more dead bone was observed after patient had *been finally placed under the influence of this new medicine*. In one month's time the boy was able to walk a half-mile from home. He is now nearly well. Since patient commenced taking "The Elixir of Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound," I have given him no other medicines only as was necessary to correct the disturbed condition of the secretions; consequently the combatment of the disease must be attributable to the influence of the "Iodo-Bromide."

I have since used this new agent in a large number of cutaneous diseases and am highly gratified with its effect. I consider it a *valuable acquisition* to our therapeutical agents and could not think of being without it.

April, 1871.

L. ROGERS, M. D.

HAMILTON, Ohio, April 16th, 1871.

* * * * * I have used the Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Comp., in a case of canceroid tumor of the rectum. After using the remedy two days, per enema, twice a day, all bloody and other discharges ceased, and with the internal use of Fowler's Solution and Mur. Tinct. of Iron, the patient has improved rapidly.

S. H. POTTER, M. D.

BRAINARD, Rens., Co. N. Y., *April, 15th, 1871.*

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co., GENTLEMEN:

For some time past I have been using your valuable Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound and I feel it due to you to say that it has exceeded my expectations in its medicinal powers—I have used it as a discutient in all the cases under my care of glandular enlargement, with marked advantage—in painful swelling with much relief of the pain—and in neuralgic pains with the same results. I have used it as an application to those frequent cases of tenderness of the spine with decided benefit. I have used it in a few cases of diphtheria and scarlatina with membranous formations, internally, with a swab, with good success. I have applied it to pustular eruptions with success. In short, I consider it a highly valuable acquisition in the healing art.

I use it, one part of the compound to two or three of water.

Yours, with respect,

JOHN H. HAYNES, M. D.

PEMBERTON, Ohio, *April 14th, 1871.*

* * * * I have tried the Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound in several cases externally, with the happiest results. I relieved one case of obstinate facial neuralgia by two applications—its effect in this case was almost magical. I also tried it in one case of hemicrania and then of chronic rheumatism, (lumbago). I have been treating a case of chronic otorrhœa with sanious and fetid discharges. I had used Argenti Nitras, zinci chlorid. Liq. Plumbi Sub-acet, without arresting the discharge. The case is one of eight years' standing—the result of scarlatina. I injected the Iodo-Bromide mixed with an equal quantity of water, for three consecutive days, and to my utter surprise the discharge was completely arrested and the patient expressed herself cured.

R. F. T.

“Die Modenwett.”

We seldom address a word specially to the ladies, but we cannot refrain from calling their attention to an elegant translation from the German—“Die Modenwett,” a Monthly Illustrated Journal of all that is new in *modes* and fashions of dress, published in Berlin. The agency is in the hands of Mr. S. T. Taylor, 391, Canal St., New York, from whom a prospectus may be obtained. It is a most attractive and valuable addition to that branch of current literature in which the fairer portion of creation take a profound and graceful interest.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

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DEVOTED TO

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[No. 6.

Communications.

IPOMÆA JALAPA.

(*Jalap.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Convolvulaceæ.

In the LINNEAN system, this plant will be found in class *Pentandria*, and order *Monogynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx 5-cleft, naked; corol funnel-form or bell-form, with 5 folds; stigma globe-headed, papillose; capsule 2 or 3; each 1 or 2 seeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Root perennial, flowers red; stem annual herbaceous, twining, branches smooth; leaves cordate, ovate, acuminate, entire, smooth, alternate; peduncles 1 to 3 flowered; corol salver-form; tube cylindrical, subclavate; stamens exsert; stigma 2-lobed; ovary 2-celled, cells 2-seeded.

HABITAT.—Mexico. In some places it grows 6,000 feet above the level of the sea.

PART USED.—Root.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Hydragogue cathartic, and anthelmin-

tic, to which some have added diuretic. MOTHERLY remarked, that jalap was diuretic as well as a purgative.

HISTORY.—The botanical character of this plant was unknown to the profession until the year 1827. LINNÆUS, CLUSIUS, PLUMIER, TOURNEFORT, and others, referred it to the genus *Mirabilis*, but subsequently adopted the views of MILLER and RAY, and changed it into a different family; it retained the name *Convolvulus Jalapa* for several years, and was described as such in medical and botanical works. In 1777, THIERRY DE MENONVILLE described a plant which he found in the vicinage of the city of Vera Cruz, which he thought was the identical one that yields jalap. This he described as *Ipomæa macrorhiza*, and subsequently it was called *Ipomæa Jalapa*. This plant, however, upon analysis, was found to differ widely from jalap, especially in relation to the magnitude and medical properties of the root. These two genera, *Convolvulus* and *Ipomæa* possess striking similarities, the principle difference being found in their organs of fructification. Doubts continued to obscure the medical horizon relative to the botanical character and generic location of this agent, until 1827 or 1828, when Dr. JOHN R. COXE, Prof. of *Materia Medica* in the University of Pennsylvania, presented Mr. NUTTALL with specimens of the plant in a good condition for analyzing, and he recognized it as *Ipomæa*, and in his description, gave it the title of *Ipomæa Jalapa*.

Dr. Stillé observes, v. ii, p. 555:—"Jalap was first introduced into Europe about the year 1610, and before the end of the seventeenth century from five to ten thousand pounds' weight of it was every year imported into Marseilles alone. It is the root of the *Ipomæa Jalapa*, a native plant of Mexico, and derives its name from the city of Xalapa, in the neighborhood of which it grows, at a height of about six thousand feet above the level of the sea."

It is said not to communicate its cathartic properties to the milk of nursing women, nor to be absorbed by the skin.

The addition of camphor is said to lessen the griping of Jalap, and at the same time augment its purgative properties.

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Constipation.—Dr. Stillé observes:—"The forms of *constipation*

which jalap is most adapted to relieve are the accidental without colic, and the habitual with dryness of the intestines. In the latter a small dose of jalap, or of its extract, which is preferable, should be taken before rising in the morning, and an hour afterwards a glass of cold water. WEDEKIND, who recommends this method, adds that when the secretion of bile is deficient, an aloetic pill may also be taken the night before, so that its operation, which does not occur sooner than at the end of eight or ten hours, may coincide with that of the jalap. He states also that the combination is a very useful one for travellers and for those persons whose sedentary habits dispose them to torpor of the bowels."

Dr. WARING says in constipation, depending upon atony of the intestines, jalap, in combination with a carminative or calomel, may be given with advantage. In the constipation of gouty subjects, on the eve of an attack, Dr. BÖRNE advised the following formula:

℞ Pulv. Jalapæ, 3 ss; Vin. Colchici, Tinct. Hyoscyamus, Spts. Lavend. Co., ää f 3 ss; Aq. dest. f 3 i. M. ft. haust.

PEREIRA mentions this drug for the relief of this affection.

Administered in combination with small doses of the extract of nux vomica, it will be found very efficient in the treatment of this malady.

Dropsy.—PEREIRA by WOOD, p. 511:—"In dropsies it is frequently desirable to promote watery stools, jalap, especially, in combination with cream of tartar, as in compound powder. of jalap, may be used for this purpose with the best effects."

Prof. PAINE speaks of jalapin, the active principle of this agent, as an efficient remedy for dropsy. He advises its use for the purpose of evacuating the fluids in the abdomen, as in cases of ascites.

Dr. Stillé remarks:—"MARGROVE called jalap *panacea hydro-picorum*. It is not equalled by any medicine of its class in the power of evacuating dropsical effusions, and of curing those which are independent of an organic lesion. Associated with bitartrate of potassa, it forms a safe and certain hydragogue cathartic."

BIDDLE's *Materia Medica* p. 228:—"Jalap is a powerful hydragogue cathartic, operating with great promptness, and often causing much pain. In overdoses, it may produce dangerous

hypercatharsis. It is employed as a hydragogue in dropsy, when it is often combined with cream of tartar; as a revulsive in cerebral and other affections, and to increase the activity of calomel in bilious fevers."

"Dr. WARING remarks, p. 394:—"In dropsical affections, there is no hydragogue cathartic more generally useful than Pulv. Jalapæ Co. in gr. 40, doses frequently repeated. Dr. Chapman advises its combination thus: R Pulv. Jalapæ Co., ʒj-3 ss. Potas. Bitart. gr. v.-x.-xv, Ol. Carui. gutt. ij., Aq. f. ʒ iss. M. To be repeated so as to keep up an unremitting discharge from the bowels."

Most authors advise its employment in dropsy; some cases are promptly relieved by the use of calomel and jalap. Diuretics may be administered to advantage, associated with this remedy.

Hæmaturia.—In this affection the compound powder of jalap is spoken of by Dr. TODD as the most preferable purgative. This powder was prepared as follows: powdered jalap, oz. v; acid tartrate of potash, oz. ix; powdered ginger, oz. i. Dose, gr. xxx-gr. lx.

Dysentery.—"In dysentery, ('says Dr. WARING') the pulv. jalapæ co., was extensively employed by Mr. TWINING. Next to castor oil, it is the best purgative that can be employed in these cases."

Diseases of the Brain.—Dr. WARING observes, p. 395:—"In diseases of the brain, jalap, from its derivative operation, is often administered with advantage. It is best given combined with other purgatives or calomel."

Gonorrhœa.—SYDENHAM, who thought that *gonorrhœa* is best cured by purgatives, gave a preference to the most drastic, and especially to jalap, after reduction of the inflammatory symptoms by salines. (S.)

Worms.—Stillé p. 558, v. ii:—"Many cases are on record to attest the virtues of jalap as a vermifuge for tape-worms as well as lumbricoid worms. As early as 1788, BLOCH made use of this, in conjunction with other medicines, as a vermifuge. WEDEKIND was of opinion that it not only expelled intestinal worms, but also destroyed them as a poison. BREMSER says that jalap is

indisputably one of the most powerful and efficient of purgatives, and one which beyond all others, has most decidedly anthelmintic properties. WEPFER and VAN SWIETEN both used it successfully."

WARING says:—"against worms, particularly *lumbrici*, jalap, in combination with calomel, is a safe and efficient vermifuge. It is particularly adapted for children." The resin or *alcoholic extract* (says Stillé) is reckoned to be from two to four times as strong as jalap itself, and may be given in doses of from four to twelve grains. It should be thoroughly triturated with sugar, almond emulsion, or some other proper substance, in order to promote its sub-division. The syrup of rhubarb is said to have the property of completely dissolving it, so as to favor its operation in a remarkable degree.

Varia.—Prof. PAINE claims to have had extensive experience in the use of jalapin, in various diseases, and good success. In several cases which have been under his treatment, in which he has administered the jalapin, in combination with quinine, iron, aconite, veratrum, and such other remedies as the case indicated, he has found it to serve a most valuable purpose, in preventing effusion, either into cavities or substance of the brain, or spinal column. He also used it in cases of chronic synovitis, in one-sixteenth or one-twentieth grain doses, repeated two or three times a day.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Dose, $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 Dram.
Solid Extract	- - -	" 3 to 8 Grains.
Jalapin	- - -	" 1 to 2 Grains.
Pills of Ext. Jalap	- - -	1 Grain Each.
Pills of Jalapin	- - -	1 " "

TINCTURE OF JALAP.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Six Ounces.
Diluted Alcohol	- - -	Three Pints.

Dose—one to two and a half drams.

COMPOUND PILLS OF JALAP.

Solid Extract of Jalap	- - -	Half Ounce.
Bitartrate of Potash	- - -	One Ounce.

Make into fifty pills. A hydrogogue purgative, useful in costiveness, worms, and several forms of dropsy

MIXTURE OF JALAP AND CREAM OF TARTAR.

Solid Extract of Jalap One Dram.

Cream of Tartar Six Drams.

Make into thirty pills. Dose, three every three hours, as a hydrogogue purgative.

GRIFFITH'S CATHARTIC PILLS.

Solid Extract of Jalap Seven Grains.

" " " Rhubarb Six Grains.

Soap Half Dram.

Mild Chloride of Mercury Twenty-five Grains.

Tartrate of Antimony and Potassa, 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ Grains.

Distilled Water Sufficient.

Divide into twenty-five pills, two of which may be taken at once, and repeated in two hours, if necessary.

ARCTIUM LAPPA, OR LAPPA MINOR.

(Burdock.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Compositæ.

In the sexual system, this plant will be found in class *Syngenesia*, and in order *Aequalis*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Involucre globose, with scales hooked at the apex; egret chaff-bristly; receptacle chaffy.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—(Flowers red, root perennial?) Cauline leaves heart-form, petioled, toothed; flowers paniced, globose; involucre smooth. (Some of our best botanists call the root perennial, yet it is biennial.)

HABITAT.—Native of Europe, though naturalized in this country, and grows in great abundance near old buildings, among rubbish, on road-sides, and cultivated fields.

PARTS USED.—The roots and seeds are the officinal parts.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.—Alterative, diaphoretic, diuretic, and aperient.

HISTORY.—This plant has been grouped in different genera.

An English author describes it under *Bardana*, Linn. under *arctium*, others under *Lappa*. A syrup made from the root, has long been used in domestic practice for the cure of scrofulous affections and cutaneous diseases. Water or diluted alcohol extract its properties.

THOMAS GREEN, Editor of the *Universal Herbal*, says:—"In England, few animals, except the ass will touch it; birds feed upon the seeds; and snails, slugs, and some sorts of caterpillars, on the leaves. "He adds:" The stems are eatable, if stripped of their rind before the flowers appear, either boiled or raw, with oil and vinegar. Some excellent physicians (he says) think a decoction of the root equal if not superior to that of sarsaparilla. Two ounces of the dried root are boiled in three pints of water till one pint is wasted, and a pint or more of this liquid is taken warm every day. A strong infusion of the root operates powerfully by urine and is good in the jaundice and dropsy. The decoction above mentioned is also serviceable in the gravel, stone in the kidneys, and bladder, and venereal disorders; also for consumptive and asthmatical habits. The roots are said to be sudorific, and useful in fevers but its virtue in operating by urine is its greatest value."

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Venereal Affections.—PEREIRA'S *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics* by WOOD, says, "the burdock has been especially recommended in venereal, rheumatic, and scorbutic diathesis, and in chronic skin diseases." This plant is frequently put in with sarsaparilla root, and made into a syrup, which has become a very popular remedy for this affection. An English author remarks, that the roots are chiefly commended as diuretic, diaphoretic, and anti-scorbutic, and have been successfully employed in the treatment of lues venerea. Dr. KING speaks of this agent as being useful in syphilitic diseases.

The United States *Dispensatory* mentions that the root has been recommended in venereal affections. The remedy must be employed some considerable time in order that its beneficial effects may be obtained. If properly administered, burdock will be found a valuable adjuvant in this class of harassing affections. EDWARDS and VAVASSEUR, (and many others might be cited) refer to this agent for this malady.

This remedy is to be regarded, not in the light of a specific for this disease, but when associated or alternated with other drugs, as greatly facilitating their operation.

Rheumatism.—Remedies that promote the action of the kidneys and skin are commonly regarded as the most beneficial, in the treatment of rheumatism. This agent, possessing diaphoretic and diuretic properties, has been recommended as valuable in the cure of this disease. An infusion of the root, or seeds, should be liberally employed, and will be found useful associated with other remedies, such as colchicum, acetate of potash, opium, aconite, and in some instances with calomel.

Impetigo.—Dr. WARING observes, p. 99:—“*In ague and in general debility, burdock is a popular remedy in Ireland; but it is in diseases of the skin in which its utility is chiefly established.*” Dr. GRAVES relates an obstinate case of impetigo, which was cured by the following decoction:

Leaves or root of burdock, 3 iv; water oij; boil to oj. The whole to be taken in divided doses, in the course of the day.”

Arsenic, iodine, ung. hydrargyri nitratis, calomel, sodæ bicarb, or solanum dulcamara, in some cases will be found highly beneficial in conjunction with this agent. By some writers the seeds are regarded as more diuretic, and more alterative than the root.

Nephritic Diseases.—For irritable states of the kidneys, burdock has been recommended. A syrup of burdock, buchu and hops will be found useful in nephritic diseases.

Scrofula.—Dr. KING mentions burdock as useful in scrofula. In most cases it should be given associated with other remedies, such as bromine, potassii iodidum, chloride of ammonium, etc.

Gout.—Some writers advise its administration in gout, and speak favorably of its effects. The treatment of this disease, if severe, should not be limited to this remedy, but associated with opium, hyoscyamus, colchicum, alkalies, aconite, or carbonate of lithia.

Erysipelas.—PORCHER quotes LINNÆUS, *Vegetable Materia Medica*, 172, according to which it is found beneficial in herpes and erysipelas; “hence, (he adds) we may infer that it has at any

rate some power as an alterative." In severe cases alternate this remedy with the tincture of the perchloride of iron, or quinine. Various cutaneous diseases are said to have been cured by the use of burdock. Many other diseases besides those mentioned in this paper, have been cited by authors, in which this drug has been employed with success.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Dose, 1 Dram.
Solid Extract	- - - -	" 5 to 20 grs.
Pills	- - - -	2 grains each.

TINCTURE OF BURDOCK.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Two Ounces.
Diluted Alcohol	- - -	One Pint.

Dose—One ounce.

INFUSION OF BURDOCK.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	One Ounce.
Water	- - - -	One Pint.

Dose—Two to four ounces.

SYRUP OF BURDOCK.

Fluid Extract	- - - -	Four Ounces.
Syrup	- - - -	Twelve Ounces.

Dose—Half to one ounce.

COMPOUND SYRUP OF BURDOCK.

Fluid Extract of Burdock	- -	One Ounce.
" " " Yellow Dock	- -	" "
" " " Dandelion	- -	" "
" " " Sarsaparilla	- -	" "
" " " Sassafras	- -	To Flavor.
Syrup	- - - -	Two Pints.

Dose.—Half to one and a half ounces.

[Continued from May Journal.]

REMARKS ON THE AMERICAN NATURAL ORDERS OF PLANTS, WITH REFERENCE CHIEFLY TO THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTICAL EFFECTS.

ORDER II.—*Magnoliaceæ*. *Magnolia Family* consists of 11 genera, and 265 species, including some of the most splendid and majestic forest trees of our country. This order, although not

peculiar to North America, still has its *focus* here, especially among the woods, swamps, and sides of the hills at the west and south, thence extending into the West India Islands. The order is unknown in Africa, and almost in Europe. It includes but two northern genera, *Magnolia* and *Liriodendron*.

The order is characterized by a bitter taste, tonic and aromatic properties, and fragrant flowers; the odor of which, has a marked sensible effect on the nervous system. Notwithstanding the bitterness of the bark, it is destitute of *tannic* or *gallie* acids.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—The *Magnolia* family possesses decided febrifuge and anti-periodic powers. The cones of the *magnolia acuminata* yield a spirituous tincture, which is employed with considerable success in rheumatic affections. The seeds of most of the species are remarkable for bitterness.

1. **MAGNOLIA.**—Six species of the *magnolia* are found within the limits of the U. States, viz: the *M. Glauca*, *M. Acuminata*, *M. Tripetala*, *M. Auriculata*, *M. Macrophylla* and *M. Grandiflora*, the three first of which are recognized by the U. S. Pharm. The bark of the root of the *M. Glauca* is mostly used in medicine, though all the species possess similar medicinal properties. It has an aromatic odor, and a bitter pungent taste, of a spicy flavor. The source of the aromatic properties, is a volatile oil, which abounds also in every part of the tree, and may be obtained by distillation. An analysis of the bark of the *M. Grandiflora*, yields a gum-resin a volatile oil, and a peculiar crystallizable principle, analogous to *Liriodendrine Magnolin*.

USES.—As a useful antiperiodic tonic, this remedy is used extensively at the South, and during the recent war, when quinine was difficult to obtain, much reliance was placed on it in the Southern armies as a substitute. I found immense quantities of the powdered bark of the root, in the confederate laboratory at Augusta at the close of the war, put up very nicely in ounce packages. According to Prof. JOSEPH JONES of New Orleans, it proved a very successful remedy in intermittents and remittents. The *warm decoction* acts as a sudorific and laxative. The *cold infusion* as a grateful tonic and anti-periodic. The *tincture* of the cones and seeds, is represented as highly useful in chronic rheumatism.

2. *LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA*.—*Bark of the Root*. One of the most beautiful of our native forest trees. Partakes of the bitter tonic aromatic properties which characterize the order.

The active principle of the bark is *liriodendrine*, discovered by Dr. EMMET in 1832, (*Phil. Jour. Phar.*, iii. 5.) solid, brittle, inodorous at 40°, friable at 180°, volatile at 270° F.; soluble in alcohol.

USES.—Those of an aromatic tonic, with sudorific and anti-periodic power. The cold infusion acts as a diuretic. Recommended by Dr. Rush, in intermittents. Used also in chronic rheumatism, and as an anthelmintic.

PREPARATIONS.—Powder, fl. extract, tincture, wine, syrup, *liriodendrine*. The tincture answers well as a stomachic tonic, also the wine of the bark made with good Sherry. The syrup is best prepared from the fluid extract.

ORDER III.—*ANONACEÆ*.—The *Custard Apple Tribe* embraces 20 genera and 300 species, having large flowers, of a dull brown or greenish color; consisting of trees or shrubs, mostly found within the tropics; characterized by powerfully aromatic and stimulant properties; includes the North American *Papaw* or *Custard Apple*, of which there are four species; one of which yields, on incision, a viscid matter, which hardens in the form of a fragrant gum. The fresh fruit is succulent and eatable, containing a saccharine mucilage, which predominates over the slight aromatic flavor. The fruit of the *Papaw* is large and fleshy, and after it has been treated with port, yellow, sweet and luscious, and from its taste compared to custard; hence its taste. It is edible, and has laxative properties.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—Very little used in medicine except in a domestic way, a saturated tincture of the seeds may be employed for emetic purposes, in doses of a teaspoonful. The bark is a useful tonic in forms of cold infusion.—(See LEE's *Catalogue of Medicinal Plants*.)

ORDER IV.—*MENISPERMACEÆ*. JUSS.—The *Moon Seed Family* of plants embraces 11 genera, 2175 species, most of the natives of tropical Asia, and America. The only North American genera are the *Calculus* and *Menispermum*.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—The roots of several species have

bitter, tonic, and astringent properties. The seeds of some are narcotic. The *Cocculus* contains the bitter crystallizable alkaloid, *Picrotoxia*, used for fish-poisoning, &c. The *Cissampelos Pareira* is both diuretic and aperient.

Menispermum Canadense, *Yellow Parilla*. This is a useful medicinal plant, common to any part of the U. S. The root is officinal. This has a strong, bitter taste, somewhat acrid and persistent. Soluble in proof spirit, contains a peculiar bitter principle, *menispermia*; also according to PARRISH, the alkaloid *Berberine*.

ORDER V. BERBERIDACEÆ.—The *Berberid* tribe of plants embraces 12 genera, and about 100 species, inhabiting the mountainous regions of the temperate zones.

PROPERTIES.—Various; the fruit of some species contains malic and oxalic acids, as the *Berberis* and forms with sugar an agreeable conserve. The roots of some have cathartic powers, as *Podophyllum* and *Jeffersonæ*.

BERBERIS VULGARIS.—(*Canadensis Pursh.*) (*Barberry*).—Bark and berries.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Tonic, laxative, refrigerant and antiscorbutic; berries form a good cooling drink in febrile and inflammatory affections, used in jaundice, and other hepatic affections, in diarrhoea, dysentery, &c., also as a gargle in apthæ. Dose of *Berberin* 1 to 5 grs. as a tonic; x grs. act as a cathartic.

PODOPHYLLUM PELTATUM.—*Mandrake* or *May Apple*.—The root. A well known North American medicinal herb.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Cathartic, alterative and cholagogue. Its active properties mainly dependent on a resinous principle, *Podophyllin*. It also contains *Berberin*. (See PARRISH'S *Practical Phar.*) *Podophyllin* is a very active, drastic purgative, in doses of 1 to 2 grs. accompanied often with much nausea and griping. In doses of $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ gr., it proves laxative, and cholagogue. The presence of *Berberin* in it, imparts tonic and alterative properties. It should be minutely triturated with 9 to 10 parts, sugar of milk and given in $\frac{1}{8}$ grain doses. *Extract of Hyoscyamus* combined with it renders it comparatively mild. *Common Salt* and *Bitart. Potassa* increase its activity.

When given for alterative effects, it should always be combined with some of the narcotic extracts. *Lactucarium* is an excellent adjunct. This agent should be carefully avoided in all irritable, or inflammatory conditions of the intestinal canal, or low typhoid conditions of the system. It is often extremely deleterious when given in fevers. In small doses, *Podophyllin* excites all the secretion, especially those of the liver, kidneys, and skin. It often proves emmenagogue. It, however, requires great caution in its use. This article has been extensively used abroad during the last ten years. Dr. RAMSKILL thinks it ranks near Scammony as a purgative, but is milder in its operation. Dr. GARROD compares its action to that of jalap. The former thinks that, as a cholagogue, it ranks above mercury, or any other drug of that class; while the latter believes it supplies the gall-bladder, merely, without acting on the liver; for where it causes several evacuations, they assume a serous or mucous, instead of a bilious character. The credit of first preparing and introducing *Podophyllin* to the profession, in 1847, belongs to Mr. MERRILL, Druggist of Cincinnati, since which time, it has been in very general use, both as an alterative and cathartic. As a cholagogue, the Eclectics usually combine it with *Leptandrin*, and *Sugar of Milk*, by trituration. Prepared in this manner one fifth of a grain will act on the bowels. Its use should not be long continued except in combination with the sedative extracts. It has been used in a wide range of diseases, as scrofulous and syphilitic diseases, hepatic affections, dysmenorrhœa, rheumatism, gonorrhœa, jaundice, dropsies, dysentery, diarrhœa, bilious remittent, and intermittent fevers, glandular enlargements, &c. In many of these diseases, it has obviously been employed empirically, and without any rational indication; its uses should be determined by its known physiological action.

ADMINISTRATION.—Powdered root—Solid Extract of *Podophyllum*. Fluid Extract, *Podophyllin* Tincture. Dose, of powdered *podophyllum*, gr. xx—to xxx; as a laxative gr. v; as an alterative gr. 1–2; Extract of *Podophyllum* gr. iv–viij. *Podophyllin* gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ of a grain to $\frac{1}{2}$ gr; an excellent laxative pill may be made of *resin of Podophyllum*, *Extract of Hyoscyamus*, powdered *Capsicum* and *Glycerine*, in such proportions, that each pill will contain $\frac{1}{4}$ of

a grain of podophyllin and 1 grain each of Ext. Hyoscyamus and Capsicum.

JEFFERSONIA DIPHYLLA. *Twin-leaf*.—The root. This plant has an order similar to that of the Podophyllum, and possesses a bitter mucilaginous taste, followed by a pungent sensation of acidity. *Chem. Comp.* Tannic acid, gum, a bitter acrid principle salts of lime, potash, &c.

MED. PROPERTIES.—Stimulant, anti spasmodic, alterative, expectorant and diuretic, used by the Eclectic School chiefly as an alterative in chronic rheumatism, secondary syphilis, mercurial affections, &c.

PREPARATIONS.—Infusion, decoction and tincture.

ORDER V. CABOMBACEÆ.—The *Water Shield Family* of plants, contains no species of much medicinal importance. They are all aquatic with floating, entire and centrally peltate leaves.

MED. PROPERTIES.—Demulcent, somewhat astringent and tonic; anciently believed to possess anaphrodisiac, sedative, perhaps narcotic properties.

GENERA.—*Cubomba*. (*Caroliniana*.) In stagnant waters in the Southern States. *Braren a Peltata*.

ORDER VI. NELUMBIACEÆ.—This natural order also embraces water plants, like the *Water lilies*, with orbicular or peltate radical leaves. *Nelumbium Luteum*, *Sacred Beak*, *Yellow Nelumbo*, *Water Chinquapin*. Flowers pale yellow; leaves from 1 to 2 feet broad; Western and Southern States. Tubers abound in starch.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Mucilaginous—nutritious, tubers used as food in the East.

ORDER VII. FUMARIACEÆ.—The *Fumitory Tribe* of plants embraces 4 genera, and 12 species in North America according to GRAY, and bears a close relation to the order *Papavaraceæ*. The plants belonging to it, are without odor, slightly bitter and have diaphoretic and aperient properties. Genera, *Dielytra*, *Adlumia*, *Corydalis*.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Tonic, diuretic and alterative. The *Corydalis Formosa*, (*Turkey Corn*) is much employed by the Eclectics as an alterative in secondary syphilis, &c. The root contains a peculiar alkaloid, *Corydalin*, $\frac{3}{4}$ i. to 4 lbs. of the root.

As a bitter tonic, it has been compared to Gentian and Columbo. It is used in the form of a strong decoction of the root, in doses of from one to four fluid ounces, three or four times a day. Dose of *Corydalin* $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. to 1 gr. This plant is called *Dielytra Eximia* by some botanists.

Used also in form of *Fluid Extract, Tincture and Compound Syrup, &c.*

ON THE USE OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM IN CONVULSIONS.

BY C. R. HARRIS, M. D. STAUNTON, VA.

As a subject of interest to our profession, I deem it a duty to give a brief synopsis of the value of the Bromide of Potassium in the treatment of convulsions especially in children. Since the introduction of this invaluable nervo-calmative I have had more experience in its use in cases of children by far more than in adults. Our testimony from experience and observation places it at the head of every other remedial agent known to the *Materia Medica*, or in the vast and interesting field of Therapeutics.

Your space and my time will not allow me to give the detail of several cases treated within the last three or four years. Suffice to say in every instance under its use our patients have been restored to health. We are no advocate of the doctrine of specifics in any disease, but a firm adherent to rational medicine; but if any remedy can approach a specific or deserve the name, it is the Bromide of Potassium in spasms or the convulsions of children. We have administered it after the usual popular remedies had failed, and life to every appearance, well nigh extinct. This was especially the case when it was a new and almost untried remedy. We believe in the administration of larger doses than are usually administered or laid down in the books, we have tried them with entire success. I have been in the habit of prescribing double the quantity in a given time, which is given by most practitioners.

In case of great violence and obstinacy, endangering the life of the little sufferer by shock to the cerebro-spinal axis and

organic life, of giving from 10 to 20 grains in solution every hour or two, relatively proportioned to the age of the patient. If the spasms are produced by crude ingesta in the bowels, producing by reflex irritation through the excitor motor nerves, we have not relied upon purgatives or enema, but gave the Bromide at once, and removed the crude ingesta subsequently. Under this plan of treatment we have not lost a patient. The hot bath sends over to the spinal cord, and the cold douche to the head may be used at one and the same time, but we have seen all these agents with active cathartics and emetics fail until the Bromide has been introduced into practice, when, in every case used the result was convalescence speedy and without any unpleasant sequences following its use.

We will briefly cite one case of recent occurrence in a child 29 days old. Called at 11 o'clock at night. It had perhaps several spasms before they were noticed by the mother, when observed, she believed it was dying. Before we reached the little patient, it had suffered with three violent carpo-pedal convulsions, and on reaching it, I was under the impression that life was extinct. There was great lividity of the face; the respiration not over three or four respirations a minute; no pulse at the wrist, and on the application of the ear to the heart, the pulsations were almost imperceptible, and not over 25 or 30 to the minute. We hesitated as to prescribing at all, life seemingly almost extinct. The warm bath had been used before our arrival and mustard sinapisms freely applied to spine and extremities with no benefit. The sufferer rallied slightly, pulse increased a few beats, and also the respiratory movements. The father asked me if it were necessary to prescribe as the child was evidently dying. I replied, I should do so, and ordered the following:

R	Bromide Potassium	-	-	-	-	3 i
	Pepm't Water	-	-	-	-	
	Simple Syrup	-	-	-	-	aa 3 i

Ordered at once a teaspoonful every half hour, the child swallowing with great difficulty. I left with directions should the case become more hopeful to give the mixture every hour. In the morning, meeting the father I asked after the child, when he replied it did not have but one slight spasm after the first dose of

the medicine, and that the case was so hopeful now that he wished I would go and see it. On my arrival I found the child at the breast, pulse 105; respiration, countenance and circulation all normal. On enquiry, I found the little patient had taken 52 grains of the Bromide during the night and morning. The case did well—child now two months old, healthy and sprightly.

I had faith in the remedy from several trials, but we must confess that we scarcely had a ray of hope for the recovery of our little patient. I only wish I had the time and space in your valuable *Journal* to give my professional brethren several other cases of great interest with their details and treatment. I must here state that in a practice of near 30 years I am firmly of the opinion that I have lost patients because the materia medica and chemistry had not then furnished us with the grand remedial agents for meeting these grave maladies. I have found it too, in large doses from 3 ss. to 3 i. every three or four hours invaluable in hysteria, epilepsy and the super excitement or mania and hallucinations attendant upon mania a-potu, or the toxæmic condition of the brain, supervening upon excessive alcoholism.

DIERVILLA CANADENSIS.

(*Bush Honey-Suckle.*)

BY W. COULSON BUCKLEY, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Caprifoliaceæ*. The honey-suckle tribe.

“Shrubs or herbs, (rarely herbs) often twining with opposite leaves, no stipules; flowers clustered and often fragrant, five-parted and often irregular; corolla mono-petalous; tubular or rotate; stamens inserted on corolla tube; rarely one less than the lobes; ovary adherent to the calyx; style one, stigmas three to five; fruit a berry, drupe or capsule. Embryo small, in fleshy albumen.”

SEXUAL SYSTEM.—*Pentandria Monogynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER AND HISTORY.—*Diervilla*. Bush honey-suckle. Was so named in honor of *DIERVILLE* a French surgeon,

discoverer of the original species and who first brought it from Arcadia. *Diervilla*, has calyx tube oblong, limb five-cleft; corolla five-cleft, twice as long as the calyx funnel-form; border five-cleft and spreading; stigma capitate, (growing in close clusters or heads,) capsule oblong, four-celled, naked, and many-seeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—*D. Canadensis*, or *Trifida* of Mœrichausen, has ovate acuminate leaves, on short petioles; peduncle axillary and terminal; one to three flowered; capsules attenuate above. It is a low shrub common in thickets and hedges, and found growing from Canada to Carolina. The stem is about two feet high and branching. The size of the leaves, is two to four by one to one and a half inches; they are finely serrate, ending in a long narrow point. The ovary is slender, four to five lines in length, about half the length of the greenish-yellow corolla. Stamens and styles much exserted (projecting out;) stigma capitate.

D. Sessifolia, Buckley. This is a species with glabrous oblong-ovate or lanceolate leaves; peduncles three to five-flowered, crowded in the axils above; capsules cylindric-oblong, short-beaked; crowned with subulate-cetaceous calyx teeth. According to the author and successful botanist, Mr. S. B. BUCKLEY, it is found growing in the high mountains of North Carolina. It is a shrub from two to four feet high, with leaves from two to four inches long; flowers sessile or pedicillate and appear about the first of June. The greater part of the above history, both generic and specific, is taken from the valuable work on botany, by A. WOOD, A. M., etc. Also, the whole of the history of the natural order.

PHYSIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES.

Diervilla Canadensis is astringent and diuretic when exhibited in large doses; in comparatively small doses it is alterative and tonic, and by some, reported a catalytic. According to the weight of authority it is principally eliminated by the kidneys, especially when exhibited in large doses. The bark and seeds act similarly on the economy; the former contains most astringent principle.

MEDICAL USES.

According to the experience of Prof. KING as contained in his *Dispensatory*, in relation to the therapeutical effects of the plant, the following are those recorded:

A cold infusion of the bruised leaves and twigs, used freely, has been very beneficially employed in inflammation of the bladder with gravelly deposits in the urine, in nephritic and calculous affections, and in gonorrhoea. The root is said to be a superior article in decoction or syrup for the cure of syphilis. Externally applied to erysipelas or erysipelatous inflammations, and over the inflamed surface occasioned by the *rhus* ivy or poison vine; it soon relieves the itching, burning, inflammation and swelling. The parts used are the seeds, leaves, twigs and roots.

Alcohol and boiling water extract their virtues. A *tincture* of the whole plant may be made as follows:—

Take of the plant bruised well, two ounces and a half, place in a bottle and pour on one pint of diluted alcohol (half pint of water and half pint alcohol), digest for a few days and filter, or pour off clear of sediment. The dose of this tincture will be from one to two teaspoonsful.

An *infusion* may be prepared by pouring on the above named amount of the plant two pints of boiling water, allowing it to stand for an hour or two, the dose of which will be from a half to a wineglassful. A *decoction* is made by boiling for a half hour in water, using the same proportions as in making the infusion, adding sufficient water afterwards to make up for the loss from evaporation.

Dose—the same as the infusion. From what the author has seen of this remedy he would advise that it be tested in secondary and tertiary syphilis.

REMARKS ON TWO OFFICIAL FLUID EXTRACTS.

BY X. T. BATES, M. D.

There are some important additions which the Committee for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia should consider, and the surest way to bring them to their attention and also to that of the public is the insertion of this article in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*.

Ext. Sarsap. Fluid Comp.

This article, as now prepared, should contain, as an alterative, conium

as well as pipsissewa and dulcamara. I have always added to the U. S. P. fluid ext. before using it, for each pint, two fluidounces of fluid ext. conium, two fluidounces of fluid ext. dulcamara, and two fluidounces of fluid ext. of princess pine, with very decided increase in its alterative effects, and have also added for each fluidounce of the above 10 grains iodid. potassium, 4 grains pyrophosphate iron; so that in the ordinary dose of one to two teaspoonfuls the patient gets $2\frac{1}{2}$ grs. of iodide of potassium and 1 grain of the iron salt, which is sufficient in this combination. As a general rule, preparations containing iron have too much, thus producing ill effects. No more should be taken than can be assimilated.

Ext. Buchu Fluidum.

This article at present is having a large sale, from the extensive advertising it receives, and the numerous and overstated purposes for which it is widely recommended. This article, as far as my experience with it goes, contains very little if any, of the medical properties of the plant, and appears to be highly flavored with peppermint.

The Pharmacopœia does not provide for any compound preparation, nor have I met with any in the numerous publications on fluid extracts, except in the "*Journal of Materia Medica*," which proposes the following:

Take of Buchu Leaves.....	16 troy oz.
Uva Ursi.....	4 " "
Cubebs.....	4 " "
Juniper Berries.....	4 " "

Cover with alcohol, 95 per cent., and macerate for a week; then exhaust with alcohol at 70°, and evaporate so as to measure twenty eight (28) fluidounces.

I have tried this with great satisfaction, and have also modified it by substituting *pareria brava* for the cubebs in some cases.

I hope to make some suggestions concerning other articles which my experience has indicated as improvements in existing preparations.

Albany, May 13, 1871.

[We know little of the composition of the so-called fluid extracts of buchu, now largely advertised as proprietary medicines, but believe the author's remarks to be correct, that some at least, contain scarcely any buchu. However we desire to remind the author that fluid extract of buchu, prepared according to the U. S. Pharmacopœia, soon acquires a mint like odor.—EDITOR *Amer. Jour. Pharm.*]

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

A NEW IODINE PAINT.—I have been requested by some professional *confrères* to bring under the notice of the profession, a new *iodine paint*, which I have had prepared and used with satisfaction and success, in the cases of glandular enlargements and scrofulous diseases, wherein iodine is called into requisition. In the hands of esteemed and eminent practical surgeons, it has proved equally beneficial as in my own practice, and they speak or write in flattering terms of it to me.

I rub down half an ounce of iodine and a like quantity of iodide of ammonium in a wedgwood mortar, and gradually dissolve it in twenty ounces of rectified spirit; to this I add four ounces of glycerine, skaking the solution well together. A very nice paint is thus obtained, which has the following advantages:

1. The iodine is prevented escaping, owing to the combination which, in the form of ordinary tincture, in warm weather it is very apt to do.
2. It preserves the iodide of ammonium instead of iodide of potassium; the former being a more powerful absorbent than the latter, which recent investigation has verified.
3. The action of the glycerine is soothing to the skin, keeping it soft and pliable—a contrast to the shriveling of cuticle produced by the ordinary tincture in common use, which frequently acts as a vesicant. But where absorption is desired, the part affected and its neighborhood influenced, as well as the system generally by iodine, and no local irritation required, this combination in form of paint will be found superior to the old tincture.

I have not confined the use of the preparation alone to glandular swellings or scrofulous gatherings. I have employed it in chronic cutaneous diseases, to nodes, over enlarged livers, diseased joints, to hypertrophied parts or morbid growths, and in cases wherein it was necessary to alter an abnormal action or promote absorption, and the result was uniformly satisfactory, and I think I may safely say the effect of the iodine was more really appreciable, and more quickly demonstrated its action on the system generally, as well as by its absorbent properties locally, than the old tincture of the British Pharmacopœia minus its disadvantages.—J. WARING-CURRAN.—*Canada Medical Journal*.—*Chicago Medical Journal*, May, 1871.

SULPHITE OF SODA.—Dr. G. KELMER, of Illinois, writes to the *Western Journal of Medicine*, that sulphite of soda can be relied upon as a speedy and effectual remedy in almost all parasitic affections of the skin.

"I have also used it in various other cutaneous diseases with uniform and unvarying success. And in that condition of the blood which is manifested by the production of numerous furuncles, commonly known as boils, the administration of sulphite of soda, with carminative-tonics, has proved, under my observation, a perfect and rapid remedy. In carbuncles, I know that, after using the following, it may be relied upon. After a forced or spontaneous opening of the carbuncle, apply a solution, on lint, of, say :

R Sodæ sulphatis.....	℥ ss.
Acidi carbolici (crys.).....	3 ss.
Glycerinæ.....	f. ℥ iij. M.

"It is remarkable how rapidly, under these applications, the ordinarily slow separation of the necrosed cellular tissues takes place—the destructive process ceases, and healthy granulations spring up.

"In urticaria it has proven very successful in subduing the worst forms of this disease in twenty-four hours. There are a great many other skin diseases in which I have found it equally efficient.

"Another application of this salt, which I consider valuable, is in the case of infants, by whom their food (the mother's breast-milk) is often ejected. A dose of two to five grains of sulphite, in combination with comp. tr. cardamom, sweetened, has proved successful in causing a retention and assimilation of the contents of the stomach when administered soon after imbibition, thus greatly promoting the health of the child. Also in cases of children where there is a fermented, swollen condition of the bowels, especially if constipated, the sulphite of soda will remove the difficulty in a short time.—*Nashville Jour. of Medicine and Surgery*, January, 1871.

PERCHLORIDE OF IRON AND MANGANESE IN NECROSIS, FISTULOUS SINUSES, AND HYDROCELE.—Prof. Marcacci states (*Revista Scientifica di Siena*) that 1. Perchloride of iron and manganese, injected into fistulous sinuses, destroys the pyogenic membrane, modifies the state of the walls, and favors cicatrization. 2. In necrosis it acts on the confines of the living bone, stimulating its vessels; so that the detachment and separation of the dead bone are facilitated by the formation

of new vessels in the living. 3. In hydrocele it soon modifies the inner surface of the tunica vaginalis, which becomes filled with plastic exudation, attended with more or less inflammation, according to the quantity and strength of the injection used. 4. It is not necessary that the tunica vaginalis should be distended by the injection; it is sufficient that the liquid be brought into contact with all parts of the membrane. 5. Very little pain is produced by the contact of the solution, but it is not the less efficacious. 6. A weak solution is sufficient, which should be kept in two minutes. 7. In seven cases of hydrocele in which the injection was used hard œdema followed, but was not a serious complication.—*L'Imparziale*.—*Amer. Practitioner*, May, 1871.

MUSTARD TO MAKE LEECHES TAKE.—R. L. writes to the *London Lancet* as follows:

"Having had occasion to order a mustard-poultice for a patient, it became requisite to put some leeches on the same place. I was told that they fastened instantly, filled rapidly, and that the blood streamed afterwards into bread-poultices as if it would never stop. I took the hint; and now, whenever I order leeches, I always have a mustard poultice applied first, then the leeches (two or three, instead of half a dozen,) and then bread-poultices. There is less trouble for those who have to apply the leeches, far less annoyance, weariness, and exhaustion for the patient, and a much more satisfactory result. The flow of blood is, however, sometimes so much greater than would be thought likely or possible, that I think it right to add a few words of caution. A few days ago, one of my patients, a young lady grown up, and of average strength, bled to fainting from only two leeches applied in this way."—*Nashville Journal of Med. and Surgery*, May, 1871.

GELSEMINUM SEMPERVIRENS.—Dr. E. P. Hurd, Newburyport, Mass. (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*), has been in the habit for some time of using a tincture of the root of the yellow jessamine, and believes that as a cardiac sedative we have not its equal in the whole range of the materia medica. It relieves in a marked manner the shortness of breath and palpitations of all forms of heart disease. He has seen more prompt and decided benefit from its use in chronic valvular disease than from digitalis. The dose may be three drops of the saturated tincture every two, three or four hours. The gelseminum is combined with Hoffman's anodyne and tincture of lavender, and is

believed to have a specific effect on the vasco-motor nerves, stimulating them, and thus equalizing the circulation and lessening the labor of the heart. It also allays the nervous irritability, is surer than veratrum or prussic acid, and safer than digitalis.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, April, 1871.

A FAVORITE TONIC REMEDY.—Which makes an eligible preparation, and one very palatable, is as follows :

R	Acidi phosphorici dil.....	℥	i.
	Elix. calisaya.....	℥	iv.
	Elix. valer. ammon.,.....	℥	ii.
	Glycerinæ.....	℥	iii.
	Sherry wine.....	℥	vi. M.

Dose from one-half to one ounce.

“It is from an experience in the use of this remedy in more than two hundred cases, extending over a period of several years, that confidence has been inspired in its general adaptation to the treatment of diseases marked by debility of the nervous system.—*Cincinnati Medical Rep.*, March, 1870.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, April 1871.

SLOUGHING SYPHILITIC SORE THROAT.—Dr. C. S. Smith (*Lancet*,) derives great benefit in such cases by painting over the diseased surface with Calvert's liquid carbolic acid, undiluted, by means of a camel-hair pencil. The pencil must be pushed well upwards and downwards so as to reach, as much as possible, every part of the diseased surface. A weaker solution should afterwards be employed frequently. Good nourishment should be given with the following mixture :

R	Liquor Cinchonæ.....	m.	v.
	Batley's solution of opium.....	m.	v.
	Iodide Potassium.....	grs.	x.
	Water.....	℥	i. M.

S. This quantity three times a day.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, April, 1871.

VARICOSE VEINS.—C. C. F. GRAY, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y. (*Buffalo Med. and Surg. Jour.*,) during his present term of service in the Buffalo General Hospital, has radically cured two cases of varicose veins by the use of potassa cum calce. He prefers this method to any other, being safe, almost painless, and successful.

The first patient treated, aged 26 years, had enlarged veins, the result of general debility. Five eschars were produced upon the left leg, and three upon the right. In four weeks he was discharged cured.

The second patient, aged 61, had a varicose ulcer, and varicose veins, upon his left leg. Potassa cum calce, made into a paste by alcohol, was applied directly over the enlarged veins at five points. In twenty minutes the paste was washed off with vinegar. The eschars thus made were of the size of a pea. At the expiration of six weeks the eschars had not only healed, but also the varicose ulcer. The cure seems to be radical. When the patient is standing up the leg looks smooth, and there exists no longer any appearance of enlarged veins.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

SULPHO-CARBOLATE OF ZINC.—This salt crystallizes in large, colorless crystals, having the peculiar astringent metallic taste of the zinc salts generally. Dr. Lyons, of Detroit, Mich. (*Detroit Review of Medicine and Surgery*), confirms the views of others in the successful treatment of gonorrhœa by a solution of sulpho carbolate of zinc. It is highly recommended as a dressing for burns. The solution for the former purpose may be made as strong as eight or ten grains to the ounce, if the crystals are used. For the latter use a much stronger solution may be employed. The advantages claimed for the sulpho-carbolates are, that while they possess decided antiseptic properties, they have no disagreeable odor and their action is more gradual and permanent, although necessarily slower than that of the volatile carbolic acid.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF CHLORAL.—E. LAMBERT, late House Surgeon of the Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*), affirms that the proper mode of exhibiting chloral is in fractional doses of 15 grs. every quarter of an hour until some effect is produced. Some patients will require doses of 3 j. and it is better to produce an anæsthetic effect by 3 iij. given in the space of two hours than by 3 j. given singly.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

CHLOROFORM IN THE TREATMENT OF BILIARY CALCULI.—JOHN BARCLAY, M. D., Physician to Leicester Infirmary (*British Med. Jour.*) recently gave to a clergyman, aged 58, in his third attack from gall-stones, chloroform in two or three drop doses, three or four times a day, and to his surprise pain, tenderness, distension, and jaundice disappeared together.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

LARGE DOSES OF BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM IN HEADACHE.—Dr. WILLIAM COMMONS, of Bradford, Ohio, in a note to the *American Practitioner*, says:

I have been subject to severe headache all my life, having inherited it from my mother. No treatment has ever given me relief except the bromide of potassium in large doses. I began its use in 1862. At first, took it in small and repeated doses, and always found the benefit from its use was in proportion to the amount taken. I soon took it in large doses; and now my plan is to take, in the commencement of the attack, two drams of bromide, dissolved in two tablespoonfuls of water; and if not immediately relieved take one dram more in ten minutes, and repeat in fifteen minutes if necessary. I have used this medicine in this way many times, and not in a single instance has it failed to give prompt and complete relief. The largest dose taken was half an ounce avoirdupois, dissolved in two ounces of water, and swallowed in twenty minutes, eight hours after eating, with complete relief from a more than usually bad spell.—*Oregon Medical and Surgical Reporter*, December, 1870.

BELLADONNA IN CHOLERA MORBUS.—Dr. H. E. WHITEHEAD having had occasion to treat several cases of severe attacks of cholera morbus, and having failed to relieve the first case with opium, ordered for the patient pills containing one third to one-half a grain of the extract of belladonna; one to be taken every four hours.

The first pill relieved the sense of constriction or knotty pain in the region of the umbilicus, and after the third pill the bowels were freely moved, although several purgative draughts had been taken previously without effect. After having taken two grains of the extract the patient rapidly recovered, with no constipation, headache, or unpleasant symptoms. The result in three other cases, with the belladonna treatment, was equally successful.—*Oregon Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Dec. 1870.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL IN THE TREATMENT OF CONGESTION OF THE RETINA.—Dr. RUSSELL MURDOCK, member of the Baltimore Pathological Society, in a discussion on the impairment of sight by hydrate of chloral, replied that it is stated in the ophthalmological journals to cause anæmia of the retina, and suggested that it might prove useful in treating congestion of its vessels, for which artificial leeching is now the remedy.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

TREATMENT OF IRRITABLE HEART.—Dr. J. M. DaCosta, Philadelphia (*Am. Jour. Med. Sciences*), in his treatment of irritable heart occurring in soldiers, with hypertrophy, states that no medicine can be compared to aconite. In moderate doses, used for months, a decrease of the enlarged organ happened. In pure irritable heart he recommends digitalis, digitaline, and veratrum viride—the latter stands between aconite and digitalis. Ten drops of the tincture of digitalis were given three times daily, and from 1-60th to 1-30th of a grain of digitaline, to some of his soldier-patients. He is disappointed in gelseminum as a cardiac sedative. In instances of irregular action, belladonna and atropia proved very efficient agents.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC HYDROCEPHALUS.—Dr. N. S. Davis, Chicago, Ill. (*Chicago Medical Examiner*), advocates the subjoined prescription in the treatment of chronic hydrocephalus:

R̄ Fl. Ext. Scutellaria.....	℥ ij.
Tinct. Digitalis.....	℥ ss.
Iod. Potass.....	℥ ij.
Fl. Ext. Hyoscyamus.....	℥ ss. M.

Dose, twenty drops, four times a day, in sweetened water. If the digitalis is found to be exerting too much influence, the dose must be diminished.—*Medical Record*, February, 1871.

A GOOD ANÆSTHETIC MIXTURE.—Dr. Henry F. Lyster, of Detroit (*Mich. Univ. Med. Journal*), advocates this anæsthetic mixture in private practice:

R̄ Alcoholi.....	℥ ss.
Chloroformi.....	℥ j.
Æther. Sulphurici.....	℥ ij.

Misce.

Before administering the above in surgical operations, he is in the habit of giving the patient a teaspoonful or two of brandy, thus corroborating the views of Dr. Warren Stone, of New Orleans, and others.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, April, 1871.

BROMO-CHLORALUM FOR UNBROKEN CHILBLAINS.—George P. Rugg, M. D., writes to the *London Lancet* that he has found an excellent remedy in the new disinfectant, chloralum, for unbroken chilblains. It should be applied, undiluted, night and morning, using a moderate amount of friction.—*Nashville Jour. of Med. and Surg*, May, 1871.

EMBROCATION FOR INFLAMMATION OF BREASTS.—

℞ Fluid extract of aconite.....	one half ounce.
“ “ phytolacca	one ounce.
Iodide potassium.....	one dram.
Warm water.....	one pint.

Wet linen compresses, and apply constantly.

No application with which I am acquainted will so surely prevent tumors of the mammæ from taking on the suppuration process. Even if suppuration have taken place, it resolves the indurations and relieves pain.—*Med. Bulletin.*—*Chicago Medical Journal.*—*Georgia Medical Companion*, April, 1871.

NITRIC ACID IN BRIGHT'S DISEASE.—Dr. May Figueira, Physician to the Royal Hospital of St. Joseph, at Lisbon, has found great benefit from the use of pure nitric acid mixed with water (as lemonade) in Bright's disease. He gradually increases the dose to twenty-four and thirty drops four times a day. Milk and raw onions he found most useful in diminishing anasarca and albuminuria.—*Nash. Jour. of Med. and Surg.*, May, 1871.

NEURALGIA MIXTURE.—℞. Quinia Sulph., two drachms; Ferri Pruss., two drachms; Fl. Extract Aconite, two drachms; Fl. Extract Gelseminum, one drachm; Neutralizing mixture, one pint; Syrupus Simplex, two pints. Mix. Dose, one teaspoonful every two hours, for twenty-four or forty-eight hours.—*Med. Indep.*—*Chicago Med. Jour.*, January, 1871.

IN COLLIQUATIVE PERSPIRATION.—Night Sweats of Phthisis the following is recommended:

℞ Oxide Zinc.....	
Ext. Hyoscyami, ää	gr. iv. M.

Ft. pil. No. ii. To be taken at bed-time.—*Georgia Med. Companion*, April, 1871.

CANNABIS INDICA IN SENILE CATARRH.—Dr. J. Curran Waring writes to us to say that he has found cannabis an invaluable remedy in catarrhus senilis. He administers it in ten minim doses gradually increased. Its effects, he says, must be seen to be thoroughly realized. He believes that as anodyne it is immensely superior to any other drug.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*—*Georgia Med. Companion*, April, 1871.

TO CRYSTALLIZE PLANTS, FLOWERS, &c.—(By special request.)—Dissolve 18 ounces of pure alum in a quart of distilled water by the aid of a boiling heat. When the solution is nearly cool, suspend in it, by a thread of silk or fine twine, the objects to be crystallized for about 24 hours; they are then to be taken out and suspended in a dry, shady room till thoroughly dry. The proper temperature for the solution in which the object is to be immersed is about 95 degrees F. When the solution is too cold, the crystals formed will be too large; and when too hot they will be too small. If different colors are desired, they may be given by boiling in the alum solution a little indigo, logwood, French berries, or a soluble vegetable or mineral dye, whose chemical nature does not decompose, or is not decomposed by the alum. Among the subjects adapted to this purpose, may be mentioned: the moss-rose; ears of wheat, barley, oats and other cereals; the grasses, and almost any variety of flowers; various insects, such as are interesting in the study of entomology; and above all, the almost endless variety of sea weeds and mosses, which form one of the most beautiful features in the study of botany. For parlor ornaments, especially in the country, these preparations are vastly superior to, and more attractive than the more costly works of art.—*Journal of Applied Chemistry*, June, 1871.

CHOREA.—In an epidemic of this disease observed last winter in Prague by Dr. Steiner, Fowler's solution was found to be the best remedy. Of this two or three drops were given daily, increased by a drop every second or third day, till in some cases seven or eight drops were administered. The quantity was gradually lessened when improvement occurred. When the agitation was considerable, and especially when it continued during sleep, laudanum was combined with arsenic in the following proportion: Fowler's solution, eight drops; tincture of opium, six drops; distilled water, four ounces; M. Of this four dessert-spoonsful were given daily. The writer adds:—"It was very rarely found that symptoms of the physiological effects of arsenic were produced." Two drops of Fowler's solution and a drop and a half of laudanum given to a choreaic child within twenty-four hours is *not* severe treatment.—*Dublin Quarterly*.—*American Practitioner*, January, 1871.

TO REMOVE NITRATE OF SILVER STAINS FROM CLOTH.—A German journal states that chloride of copper completely removes the nitrate of silver stains from cotton colored cloth. It should afterward be

washed with hyposulphite of soda, and then thoroughly washed with water. Such stains are more effectually removed from white cotton or linen cloth by applying to it a dilute solution of permanganate of potash and hydrochloric acid, which is to be followed by washing with hypophosphite of soda and plain water. This process renders the use of the highly poisonous cyanide of potassium unnecessary.—*Journal of Applied Chemistry*, June, 1871.

In the introduction of medicines or food into the nasal passage, by means of the gum elastic catheter, the conditions to be observed are: first, to oil the instrument: second, to guard against a too flexible one which would be apt to bend in all directions; third, to bear in mind that it may be passed into the larynx, which will occasion irritation and coughing: fourth, to watch that the catheter does not slip back through the nares, when once introduced: fifth, that if it be not readily passed through one nostril, to try the other.

Dr. C. T. HART, (*St. Louis Med. Jour.*) states that the *Dioscorea Villosa* (wild yam) acts principally on the mucous surfaces, more noticeable when pain is present, resulting from spasmodic contraction of its muscular fibres. It is invaluable for soothing the pain of cancer of the stomach. In bilious colic its action is prompt and sure. In the painful tenesmus of dysentery, and in dysmenorrhœa he has found its administration followed by happy results.

PRESCRIPTION FOR DYSPEPSIA.—

R	Sub. nit. bismuth.....	3 i.
	Calc. Carb. Precip.....	3 iii.
	Fl'd. ex. gentian.....	3 ss.
	Aq. Cinnamon.....	3 iijss. M.

—*Georgia Medical Companion*, April, 1871.

Editorial.

Fluid Extract Buchu U. S. P. with Pepsine and Bismuth, in Dyspepsia.

The stimulating influence of Buchu upon the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels has given it reputation in *dyspepsia*. It augments the appetite and promotes digestion. In combination with *Pepsine* and *Bismuth* when there is a deficiency of gastric secretion, its beneficial effects are

decided and really wonderful. In *atonic dyspepsia* complicated with urinary diseases, it tends to prevent the mal-assimilation of the food and consequent generation of sedimentary deposits in the urine, while the diuretic property holds the latter in solution, and favor its discharge.

The diseases for which we have found Buchu most beneficial are simple dropsical deposits; such as ascites, hydrothorax, œdema, anasarca, &c., &c. It must be remembered, however, in the treatment of these and all similar affections, that the dropsical deposit is a mere symptom of some primary disease, which produces those changes upon which exudation and dropsical changes depend. Hence it must not be inferred that a remedy which removes excessive accumulations of fluid from the body will produce radical cures, as in the treatment of dropsical diseases, two indications are to be fulfilled; first, to remove the dropsical deposit; second to remove those pathological conditions upon which the dropsical accumulations depend. Buchu, when properly administered, will fulfill the first indication, while other appropriate remedies will be required for the second. Buchu, then, as a physiological remedy, is one which may be regarded as hastening those transformations essential to the elimination of fluid from the body, without producing other pathological or physiological changes.

The amount of fluid eliminated from the system by Buchu, under favorable circumstances, is frequently most extensive and rapid. A case which occurred in my practice, was that of a lady afflicted with anasarca. The entire cellular tissue was distended to its utmost capacity, notwithstanding the frequent attempts to remove the fluid by means of drastic purgatives and the ordinary diuretics. In this case I administered ten grains of triturated Buchu in one-half teacupful of tepid water, every hour, and kept the surface cool by frequent spongings with cold water. The effect was most salutary, as the entire cellular tissue was emptied of its fluid contents in about seventy-two hours. Then by the use of proper remedies to remove the chronic peritonitis, upon which the general dropsy depended, the patient was entirely cured. Many other cases might be cited, as illustrating the specific power of this remedy over dropsical diseases.

J.

Scientific American.

We regret to hear that Mr. SALEM H. WALES, for nearly a quarter of a century the principal editor of the *Scientific American*, has decided to withdraw from the active management of that paper, in order to seek some rest from the arduous labors of so many years. During the long period of his connection with the *Scientific American*, Mr. WALES has won the respect of the editorial fraternity by the uniform courtesy he has shown in his writings, and he has done much to elevate the character of American journalism by furnishing his readers with scientific intelligence of a positive value. Mr. WALES will carry with him to his retirement the best wishes of the whole community.—*Journal of Applied Chemistry*, June, 1871.

Bromo Chloralum.

MARINE HOSPITAL, St. Louis, May 24, 1871.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co:

Gents,—We have used your valuable preparation of Bromo-Chloralum and have found it to be all you claim for it as a disinfectant and deodorizer.

W. H. BROWN, M. D.

Steward, Marine Hospital.

Its medical uses have been fully tried as a wash in small pox, in fever wards, both to sponge the patient, and disinfect the clothes; in amputations, in cancers and fetid ulcers, and particularly for washing the ceilings and wood-work, and floors of wards in hospitals—and it is found to be more efficacious than carbolic acid and less offensive for general use. Being non-poisonous and harmless it can be used with safety.

Fluid Extracts—Adulteration.

GENT.—I am now satisfied that I can fasten upon one concern in this State the disgraceful swindle of making two pounds of Fluid Extract out of one pound of your Extracts, and selling them for genuine. They purchase your empty bottles and refill them. You should have an engraved strap of paper over the cork, and then caution Physicians not to purchase unless it is unbroken.

“A short time ago a physician made a prescription in which was some Fluid Extract. Not having the article the apothecary substituted some Solid Extract, which came very near causing the death of the patient. I have no doubt that TILDEN & Co's reputation is often injured by the villainy of unprincipled venders of drugs. Many instances have been reported to me of a similar character, substituting their own *tinctures* for the Fluid Extracts, &c.”

The above Extracts from letters received, are given because it is due to those who are constantly purchasing Fluid Extracts, that they may be upon their guard, if there is any deviation in results or strength. We have a record of every bottle put up and can tell precisely how and when it was made by knowing the number upon the bottle.

T. & Co.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

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Communications.

LAURUS SASSAFRAS.

(*Sassafras*.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER of LINDLEY, Lauraceæ.

In the Linnean artificial system, this plant belongs to class *Enneandria*, and to order *Monogynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—This genus has a calyx parted into from 4 to 6 divisions; corol none; nectaries 3, each a 2-bristled or 2-lobed gland, surrounding the germ; fruit a drupe 1-seeded. Stamens variable in number from 3 to 14, but they are generally in two series of 6 each, with 3 of the inner series barren—often dioecious. The calyx may be taken for a corol.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Indigenous tree varying in height from ten to forty feet, and sometimes having a trunk a foot in diameter, covered with a rough, deeply-furrowed and grayish bark—that on the twigs being smooth and green. Flowers greenish yellow, and make their appearance in May.

Leaves entire and lobed on the same plant; flowers mostly dioecious. Only a small number of the trees produce fruit. The bark has a fragrant odor and a very agreeable spicy taste.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Diaphoretic, stimulant, alterative and laxative.

HABITAT.—North America.

COMPOSITION.—The root contains *volatile oil, resin, tannin, and extractive matter*. It contains about nine per cent. of a peculiar principle *sassafrin*. Its activity depends mostly upon its volatile oil, which is dissipated by boiling; hence it is best given in infusion.

HISTORY.—Dr. BIGELOW observes:—"The volatile oil and the mucilage appear to contain all the medicinal virtues of the tree.

The bark and wood of the sassafras were formerly much celebrated in the cure of various complaints, particularly syphilis, rheumatism and dropsy. Its reputation, however, as a specific in those diseases, particularly the first, has fallen into deserved oblivion, while it is now recognized only with regard to its general properties, which are those of a warm stimulant and diaphoretic. It is retained by the *Dispensatories* as an ingredient in several preparations, particularly the compound decoction of guaiacum, formerly called decoction of the woods; and the decoction of sarsaparilla, formerly the "Lisbon diet drink." In domestic practice, it has been much employed for the purpose of purifying the blood. Dr. Stillé incorporated the same facts, relative to its popular use; he says:—"It is much employed, in the form of simple infusion, as a domestic remedy, and also in a fermented liquor, or beer, as a popular beverage in the spring season of the year, under the idea that it purifies the blood."

After the conquest made by the Spaniards in Florida, sassafras was used in the treatment of syphilis.

Dr. PORCHER remarks, p. 391:—"The leaves of sassafras contain an unusual proportion of mucilage, and two or three leaves dissolved (infused?) in water, yield a mucilaginous drink. I made great use of the tea prepared with sassafras root, gathered extemporaneously, while surgeon to the Holcombe Legion, S. C. Vols. It was given whenever a warm, aromatic, mucilaginous tea was required, in fever, pneumonia, bronchitis, catarrhs, mumps, etc. The nurse detailed for each company procured the materials upon the spot where the company or regiment was posted. It served

every purpose of the articles usually supplied by the medical purveyors of the army. I have also used it in lieu of gum arabic and flax-seed so largely required on our plantations. The cotton seed is said to make an equally economical demulcent tea. In camp, sassafras tea was often drunk daily by many of the officers and soldiers as a favorite substitute for green tea.

"He adds," the pith and dried leaves of the young branches of the sassafras contain much mucilage, resembling that of the okra plant, and are extensively used in New Orleans to thicken pottage, and make the celebrated *gumbo soup*."

THERAPEUTICAL EMPLOYMENT.

Chronic Rheumatism.—This remedy will often be found serviceable in the treatment of chronic rheumatism. It should be employed internally and externally. Its internal administration may be associated to advantage with cajuput oil, so as to get from five to six drops of the latter remedy in each dose; or with aconite, guaiacum, opium etc. A liniment, composed of the oil of cajuput, oil of sassafras, aconite, laudanum and chloroform, will often be found efficacious, if the affected parts are diligently rubbed with it. Cases that give evidence of an acid state of the urine, should be allowed the use of acetate or nitrate of potash in conjunction with this agent. The author would advocate flavoring highly, most of the remedies used in this malady, with sassafras. The fluid extract of *phytolacca decandra*, *marrubium vulgare* and *laurens sassafras*, in combination, is a valuable compound for chronic rheumatism. Whatever remedies may be selected in the treatment of this disease, perseverance is indispensable for the accomplishment of much benefit.

Dr. PORCHER remarks, p. 390;—"It is diaphoretic and diuretic, useful in rheumatism, and ALIBERT speaks highly of it in gout."

Ophthalmia.—The same author, on p. 390, observes:—"The pith of the young branches, according to EBERLE, contains a great deal of mucilage; which is an exceedingly good application in acute ophthalmia." He quotes GRIFFITH'S *Med. Bot.* 552, which speaks favorably of it as an application to inflamed eyes, being effectual in the removal of the irritation so constant in this complaint. PEREIRA by WOOD, p. 465, says:—"Sassafras pith occurs

in little, white, very light cylinders, resembling the pith of the elder, or any plant with a similar growth. It contains a large quantity of a mucilaginous substance, which dissolves in water, affording a very elegant, thick, translucent mucilage. This is not sticky and adhesive, like a solution of gum arabic, nor will it serve to suspend substances in water, but is a very elegant protective application in cases of conjunctivitis." EDWARDS and VAVASSEUR speak of sassafras pith, as furnishing an abundance of pure mucilage, which is frequently exhibited in conjunction with the acetates of lead and zinc, as a wash in inflammation of the eyes, or as an injection in blennorrhœa. BIDDLE speaks of the mucilage of the pith as being much employed as a soothing application in ophthalmia.

Cutaneous Diseases.—PEREIRA mentions the employment of this agent in cutaneous diseases, as a sudorific and alterative.

Dr. Stillé observes, v. ii. p. 632:—"It was originally employed in the treatment of constitutional *syphilis*, and has been much used in certain *chronic affections of the skin*, but there is no reason to believe that it possesses any specific virtues." Dr. KING says it is generally used in combination with other alteratives whose flavor it improves, in many cutaneous eruptions.

Dysentery.—The mucilage obtained from the pith and young branches, is spoken of by PORCHER as exceedingly useful in dysentery. Other authors recommend this agent in the same malady. It will be found valuable, in combination with opium, in the treatment of this affection.

PORCHER also observes, p. 390: (speaking of the mucilage of this plant.)—"It is advantageously given as a demulcent drink in disorders of the respiratory organs, bowels and bladder; being more efficacious than that prepared from the leaves of *Bené*, (*Sesamum Indicum*.) It might be used as a substitute for acacia."

BIGELOW says:—"The mucilage of the pith of this tree is peculiarly mild and lubricating, and has been used with much benefit in dysentery, and in catarrhal, as well as calculous affections."

Wens.—Dr. B. S. BARTON, as quoted by PORCHER, states that the oil extracted from this plant, has been found an efficacious application to wens.

Dyspepsia.—The bark, by some authors, is spoken of as promoting digestion. As the flavor is very agreeable, it will be found useful to administer this agent more freely in conjunction with the various remedies usually prescribed in the treatment of this Protean disease.

Parturition and Menstruation.—Dr. KING states that the oil of sassafras is used to afford relief in the distressing pain attending menstrual obstructions, and that following parturition, in doses of from five to ten drops on sugar.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract - Dose, 1 to 2 Drams.

TINCTURE OF SASSAFRAS.

Fluid Extract - Three Ounces.

Diluted Alcohol - Seven Ounces.

Dose—One ounce.

INFUSION OF SASSAFRAS.

Fluid Extract - Two Ounces.

Water - One Pint.

Drink ad libitum.

SENECIO AUREUS.

(*Life Root*.)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Asteraceæ*.

Lindley and Jussieu located this genus in Natural Order *Eupatoriinæ*.

In the sexual, or artificial system, this plant belongs to class *Syngenesia*, and to order *Polygamia Superflua*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Flowers radiate; the ligulate ray-florets very manifest. Receptacle naked. Involucre cylindric; leaflets with withering blackish tips, and a few small scales at the base; egret simple, capillary, copious. Ray-florets sometimes wanting.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Flowers in June, yellow, root perennial; radical leaves ovate, cordate, serrate, petioled; cauline ones pinnatifid; toothed, terminal division lanceolate; peduncles sub-

umbelled, incrassate. Height from eighteen to twenty-four inches.

POPULAR NAMES.—Life Root, Rag-wort, False Valerian, Golden Senecio, Squaw-weed, and Female Regulator.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Diuretic, tonic, pectoral and diaphoretic.

HISTORY.—THOMAS GREEN, Editor of the *Universal Herbal*; or *Botanical, Medical, and Agricultural Dictionary*, describes 77 species as composing this genus. He speaks of the senecio Jacolæa growing in the vicinity of Liverpool as possessing valuable medicinal properties. He states that a poultice made of the fresh leaves has a surprising effect in removing pains of joints, and is said to remove sciatica, or hip-gout, in two or three applications, when ever so violent. He adds:—"The root is of a healing, astringent nature; a decoction of it is good for inward wounds and bruises; but it is not so much used as it deserves to be."

In treating of the senecio vulgaris, he observes:—"A strong infusion of the plant is an emetic, and the bruised leaves are a good application to boils. The fresh roots smelled too, as soon as taken out of the ground, are said to be an immediate cure for the headache. Farriers give the juice to horses troubled with the botts; whence Mr. RAY concludes that it might be successfully given to kill worms in the human body."

The senecio aureus is said by SCHÆPF to be a favorite vulnerary with the Indians.

The root and herb are used for medicinal purposes, and yield their properties to water or alcohol. It is a favorite remedy of the Eclectics, who regard it as possessing properties which exert a peculiar influence upon the female reproductive organs; hence its name, *female Regulator*. Senecin possesses the virtues of the plant from which it is obtained, in a high degree. Prof. PAINE says of senecin:—"It is one of those uterine tonics that has been most successfully used in nearly all pathological conditions of the uterus, and vagina, dependent upon debility. It is especially adapted to the defective uterine function, arising from a vitiated state of the system." Dr. KING remarks that senecin is entirely soluble in sulphuric ether, forming a greenish solution, which is not precipitated by water, nor acetic acid. It is insoluble in water, but becomes soluble on the addition of strong alkaline solutions.

THERAPEUTICAL EMPLOYMENT.

Menorrhagia.—Dr. KING observes:—"In menorrhagia, combined with cinnamon and raspberry leaves, it (senecio) has been found very serviceable, when administered during the intermenstrual period, as well as at the time of ovulation." Senecin may be combined with geranin advantageously in the treatment of this affection.

Amenorrhœa.—Many advocate the use of this agent in amenorrhœa. If the patient be troubled with anæmia, this remedy should be alternated with iron, myrrh, or guaiacum.

Dysmenorrhœa.—*Senecio aureus* and its active principle, senecin have been highly extolled for the relief they afford in dysmenorrhœa. In the treatment of this affection, it may be given to advantage associated with chloroform, opium, iodide of iron, stramonium or belladonna.

In a vitiated condition of the catamenia, says Prof. PAINE:—"The senecin possesses the power to correct this condition to a very remarkable extent, hence it has been denominated by many practitioners as 'the female regulator,' as where there is an excess or deficient catamenia arising from these causes, the senecin appears to restore the function to its normal condition, by establishing a healthy menstruation in these diseases, though it usually manifests its influence more favorably in combination with iron, eupurpurin, hydrastin, quinine, cod-liver oil, and such other remedies as have a general tonic and invigorating impression upon the entire system." Our author adds:—"In cases of weak habit where the catamenial period is protracted, and the blood appears to be poisoned or contaminated by the retention of the zymotic catamenial poisoning, hastening the development of scrofula or phthisis, senecin in the proportion of one grain to one-half grain of eupurpurin and one or two grains of hypophosphite of iron, taken four or five times a day, is a most valuable remedy. It also gives tone and vigor to the uterus, and I have used it in many cases of sterility and general inertia of this organ, with most decided benefit." Dr. KING remarks:—"Senecin possesses the virtues of the plant from which it is obtained, in a high degree. It is however, more especially employed in the treatment of female diseases, as amenor-

rhoea, dysmenorrhoea, and uterine derangements. Combined with aletrin, caulophyllin, or cimicifugin it will be found especially useful in these complaints." Dr. K. closes his remarks relative to the use of senecin, in the following manner:—"It is one of those agents which exert a tonic influence upon the uterus, thereby restoring its various functional derangements to a normal condition."

Phthisis.—Prof. PAINE says:—"The senecin has also a decided tonic influence upon the pulmonary tissue, hence it has been largely used in phthisical cases, but we apprehend its main value is in its uterine tonic properties, thus relieving the pulmonary difficulty by restoring to the uterus its normal function."

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	-	-	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 Dram.
Senecin	-	-	" 3 to 5 Grains.

INFUSION OF LIFE ROOT.

Fluid Extract	-	-	-	-	One Ounce.
Water	-	-	-	-	One Pint.

Dose—One to four ounces.

Senecin	-	-	-	-	Four Grains.
Aletrin	-	-	-	-	" "
Sulphate of Iron	-	-	-	-	" "

Make into two-grain powders. In chlorosis accompanied by amenorrhoea.

Senecin	-	-	-	-	Ten Grains.
Sulphate of Quinia	-	-	-	-	Six Grains.
Solid Extract of Belladonna	-	-	-	-	Three Grains.
Conserve of Roses	-	-	-	-	Sufficient.

Make into ten pills. In dysmenorrhoea.

Senecin	-	-	-	-	Six Grains.
Geranin	-	-	-	-	" "

Dose—Two to four grains. In menorrhagia.

[Continued from June Journal.]

REMARKS ON THE MEDICINAL PLANTS BELONGING TO THE NORTH AMERICAN NATURAL ORDERS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

BY CHAS. A. LEE, M. D.

ORDER XVII. PORTULACACEÆ.—The *Punbane Order* of plants include 12 genera and 184 species; of which 6 belong to North America and 27 species. They possess no remarkable properties; the plants are all succulent or fleshy; the genera are as follows: *Portulacca*, *Thalinum*, *Calandrinia*, *Calyptidium*, *Claytonia*, *Montia*. The *Portulacca* is the only genus said to possess medicinal properties, and this is diuretic and anti-spasmodic.

ORDER XVIII. MALVACEÆ.—The *Mallows Family* includes herbs, shrubs and trees; 37 genera, 1000 species; 10 belonging to North America, with 52 species.

PROPERTIES.—The uniform character of the whole order is to abound in mucilage, and freedom from all unwholesome qualities. They form the material of mucilaginous drinks, and emollient fomentations; serving to allay irritation of all mucous surfaces. The petals of some species are astringent. The leaves of one species of *Althæa* yield a blue coloring matter, not inferior to indigo. A few species are slightly acid. The unripe fruit of the *Ochra* is a favorite ingredient in soups. The root of *Sida Lanceolata* is intensely bitter, and is considered a valuable stomachic. The root of *Althæa Officinalis* has been supposed to contain a peculiar alkaline, or neutral principle, *Althein*, but it bears so close a relation to *Asparagin* that it cannot well be distinguished from it. The following are the North America genera, viz:

Malope, *Malva*, *Sphæralcea*, *Modiola*, *Althæa*, *Malvaviscus*, *Gossypium*, *Abutilon*, *Sida*, *Hibiscus*.

ORDER XIX. TILIACEÆ.—Thirty-five genera, and 350 species belong to the *Linden Family* of plants, of which two only are native to N. America, viz: *Corchoris* and *Tilia*.

PROPERTIES.—These plants abound in a wholesome mucilaginous juice. The berries of some species are succulent and eatable; the inner bark of the *Tilia* (*Bapwood*) is remarkable for its strong fibrous texture, and its demulcent properties. The late Dr. WILLIAMS of Deerfield, Mass., made frequent use of a mucilage, prepared by macerating the inner bark of the *Tilia* in cold water, as a remedy for burns, and states that he found it more useful than any other remedy. He often prepared it by boiling the bark in milk and water to make a mucilage, which was thickened with a little bran, and applied in the form of a poultice.

ORDER XX. GERANIACEÆ.—The *Geranium Family* in North America includes but 2 genera and 7 species.

PROPERTIES.—The order is characterized by the possession of an astringent principle, and an aromatic and resinous flavor. The stem of *Geranium Spinosum* contains so much resin, that it burns like a torch and gives out an agreeable odor.

The root of *G. Maculatum* is one of our most useful astringents. The species of the *Geranium* amount to several hundred, and the varieties from seeds and cuttings are almost innumerable. No genus is regarded with more universal favor for green house plants. than this.

GERANIUM MACULATUM.—7 species of this genus are native to North America. The *G. Maculatum*, or *Spotted Cranesbill* contains 136 parts of *tannin* in 7000, 120 parts *gallic acid* and large quantities of resin and oleo-resin which modify its medicinal properties to a considerable extent.

USES.—In diarrheas, dysenteries, cholera infantum, and all chronic hemorrhages and fluxes.

FORMS OF EXHIBITION.—Substance, decoction, tincture, solid and fluid ext. For children boil the root in milk and sweeten.

ORDER XXI. OXALIDACEÆ.—The *Wood-sand* tribe of plants, includes but 6 genera, and 325 species; 1 genus only (*oxalis*) is native to North America. The presence of *oxalic acid* characterizes the order.

PROPERTIES.—Refrigerant. The acid is in combination with lime or potash, and is a constituent of a number of plants belonging, also, to other orders, as *Polygonaceæ* and *Lichenaceæ*. Oxalate of

lime is found in Rhubarb, bistort, many lichens, &c. Some lichens contain nearly half their weight of oxalate of lime. In the *Oxalidaceæ* oxalic acid is combined with potash; also in *Rumex Acetosa*. Oxalate of soda is found in *Sal Soda*; oxalate of lime forms the mulberry calculus more frequent in France than in other countries, because sand is so largely consumed by the inhabitants. "Oxalic-acid is not at present used in medicine." (PEREIRA.)

OXALIS ACETOSELLA.—Common wood-sand; indigenous to Europe and America; 4 indigenous species, all abounding in oxalate of potash.

USES.—Refrigerant, diuretic, anti-scorbutic; 500 parts of the plant yield 4 parts of the acidulated salt. An infusion of the fresh leaves, sweetened, forms an agreeable beverage in fevers. The fresh plant is useful in scorbutus. To obtain crystals of *Bin-oxalate of Potash*, bruise and macerate the fresh plants in water, press, mix the liquid with clay, decant and evaporate.

ORDER XXII. BALSAMINACEÆ.—Annual plants, with succulent stems and a watery juice, characterize the *Balsam Family* of the vegetable kingdom. Two genera and 110 species belong to it; only one genera is native of North America.

PROPERTIES.—According to DECANDOLLE, diuretic; emetic and cathartic according to RAFINESQUE. *Impatiens Pallida* and *Vulva*, (*Jewel-weed*), *Balsam-weed*, *Touch-me-not*.

USES.—An aperient, alterative and diuretic, in jaundice, dropsies, and chronic hepatic affections generally. The recent plant, digested in lard, used as a pile ointment, and as a local application for warts, ring-worm, salt-rheum, &c.

ORDER XXIII. XANTHOXYLACEÆ.—The *Prickly Ash Tribe* embraces trees or shrubs with alternate or opposite leaves; including 20 genera, and 110 species of which 3 of the former, 25 of the latter are indigenous.

PROPERTIES.—Aromatic, pungent, diaphoretic, and stimulating, with a general alterative action on all secretory and excretory organs.

USES.—In paralytic affections, local and general.

Xanthoxylum Fraxineum.—Prickly ash. The bark and berries. The whole plant medicinal.

Composition Xanthoxyline, (a crystallizable matter) fixed oil, volatile oil, resin, gum coloring matter, &c.,

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Sialogogue, tonic, stimulant, alterative, diaphoretic. As a sialogogue in paralysis of the mouth and tongue. In chronic affections, as rheumatism, cutaneous diseases, syphilis, hepatic derangements, &c., where alteratives are indicated and also in nervous diseases, flatulent colic, diarrhea, &c. Used in form of infusion of the berries, tincture, fl. ext., &c. Dose of the Xanthoxylin 1 to 3 grs. 3 or 6 times a day. In chronic rheumatism, tincture of guaiac may be combined with it. (The *Aralia Spinosa*, *Southern Prickly Ash*) is sometimes mistaken for this plant.)

PTELEA TRIFOLIATA.—(*Wafer-Ash*). Bark of the root—*Shrubby Trefoil*, *Swamp Dog Wood*, *Hop Tree*, are also common names for this shrub.

PROPERTIES.—Odor peculiar; taste bitter, pungent and acrid, persistent. Tonic, anti-periodic, anthelmintic; used in intermittents and remittents, with much success, atonic dyspepsia and convalescence from exhausting diseases. *Forms*, cold infusion, tincture, fluid ext., powder. *Ptelein*.—An oleo-resinous principle, is used in doses of 1 to 2 grs., in splenic engorgements, constipation, dyspepsia, chlorosis, amenorrhea, &c.

ORDER XXIV. ANACORDIACEÆ.—The *Cashew Tribe*, 41 genera, 95 species, North America genera, *Rhus*, *Styphonia*.

Rhus (*Sumach*), 10 native species. The *R. Venenata*, (*Poison Sumach*), *R. Toxicodendron*, (*Poison Oak* and *Poison Ivy*), very poisonous.

Rhus Glabrum (*Sumach*). Bark and fruit.

COMPOSITION.—Malic acid, tannin, fixed oil, volatile oil, coloring matter, lime, &c. The tannic and gallic acids make about 400 parts in 7000 of the other constituents. Starch, sugar and resin also largely abound. *Rhusine*, according to the Eclectic school forms an ingredient; prepared by percolation with alcohol, is said to be the active principle of the plant.

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Bark. Tonic, astringent, anti-septic; berries refrigerant and diuretic; used in diarrhea, leucorrhea, gonorrhea, dysentery, scrofula; anti-septic, used locally and astringent as a gargle.

Rhusine.—Tonic, astringent and anti septic, useful as above. Dose, 1 to 2 grs.

Rhus Toxicodendron.—(*Poison Oak*). The leaves. This and the *R. Venenata* and *Pumilum* have the same medicinal and poisonous properties, too well known to be described.

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Contains a volatile acrid principle, sol. in proof spirits, also tannic and gallic acids, resin, gum, &c. Fresh juice is powerfully irritant and to many persons very poisonous; not to all; producing an *eczematous eruption*, accompanied with much inflammation, itching, general febrile conditions, &c. Treatment, tepid bath containing $\frac{3}{4}$ iv. *Sub. Carb. Soda*—a drink of *Super. Tart. Potassa*, &c. A light cooling regimen—locally a wash of *Bi-borate of Soda* answers a good purpose. Medicinally, this species of *Rhus* has been used to advantage in palsies, especially in paraplegia, and paralysis, of the bladder and rectum in form of the saturated tinct. of the leaves; 5 to 10 drops for a dose, 3 times a day. In the form of a weak infusion of the leaves this plant is diuretic, diaphoretic, laxative, and a stimulant to the nervous system; producing, it is said, a twitching of the muscles, and a pricking sensation, like *Nux Vomica* and *Strychnia*.

ORDER XXV. SAPINDACEÆ.—Shrubs and trees and rarely herbs belong to the Soap-berry tribe of plants; which is divided by Dr. GRAY into three sub-orders, as follows, viz:

1. *Staphyleaceæ*, the *Bladder-Nut* Family. 2. *Sapinduceæ*, proper; including *Hippocastineæ*. 3. *Acerinæ*, the *Maple* Family.

The first *Sub-order*, contains the medicinal plants worthy of notice. The neutral principle *Aesculin*, is found in the horse-chestnut and probably in all our native species of *Aesculus*, and is said to be a good anti-periodic tonic, see PARRISH, *Pract. Pharm.*, as to mode of extracting it. The bark of the Western *Buck-eye*, contains a large quantity of starch, and has valuable tonic, febrifuge properties. The nuts yield an oil, which has been used to advantage in rheumatism.

The leaves, fresh fruit and bark of the small branches of *Aesculus Pavia*, (*Small Buck-eye*) are narcotic, and according to ELLIOTT, the bruised branches, or pounded seeds, are sometimes employed to stupefy fish; when the water of small ponds is im-

pregnated, the fish rise to the surface almost lifeless, and may be taken with the hand. The fruit makes excellent starch, but the water in which it is washed is also narcotic and poisonous, Dr. McDOWELL states that 10 grains of the rind of the fruit are equivalent to 3 grains of opium.

The Sub-order *Acerinæ* or *Aceraceæ*, includes 2 genera, *Acer* and *Negundo*; of the former there are 11 indigenous species, of which several yield sugar of a good quality, and several of an inferior quality. A decoction of the bark of *A. Pennsylvanicus* has some reputation as an alterative in affections of the skin, taken in decoction and used extensively. The inner bark of *A. Rubrum* is a mild and pleasant astringent. The Aborigines made much use of it, as a wash for ophthalmia.

ORDER XXVI. CELASTRACEÆ.—*Staff-Tree* Family, embracing shrubs and trees; 27 genera, and 274 species, natives of the temperate zones of both hemispheres; 4 genera, indigenous to North America.

Staphylea, *Celastrus*, *Euonymus*, *Oreophilla*, *Celastrus Scandens*. (*Bitter-Sweet*).

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—Alterative, diuretic, cholagogue, diaphoretic, slightly narcotic and anodyne.

Used in scrofula, secondary syphilis, chronic hepatic affections, cutaneous diseases, leucorrhea, rheumatism, obstructed menstruation. Externally, as an ointment in inflamed and indurated breasts of nurses, burns, excoriations, prurigo of the vulva, &c. Dose of the decoction 2 to 4 fl. ozs. 3 times a day. Extract 5 to x grains. This plant is sometimes confounded with the *Solanum Dulcamara*.

Euonymus Atropurpureus, (*Wahoo*).—Bark of the root. Two varieties used in medicine, *E. Atropurpureus*, (*Spindle Tree*) and *E. Americanus*, (*Burning Bush*).

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Tonic, alterative, laxative, diuretic, and expectorant, probably contains an alkaloid, *Euonymia*. Has been used in form of infusion, syrup and extract, made of the bark, in intermittents, dyspepsia, torpid liver, constipation, dropsy and pulmonary affections. Dose of *Saturated tincture*, or fluid extract, 1 to 4 fluid 3; of the syrup, 1 to 2 fluid 3; of the hydro-

alcoholic extract, 1 to 15 grs.; powder xx to xxx grains. The seeds are cathartic and emetic. The *Euonymine* of B. Keith is a bitter dark brown powder, slightly saline to the taste, and is probably the powdered alcoholic extract, mixed with some vegetable powder and common salt. Dose, 1 to 2 grains as a laxative and tonic.

MILK SICKNESS AND ITS CAUSES.

BY PETER SMITH, M. D. OF SUMNER, ILL.

This morning I gathered a few specimens of the weed which thirty years' observation and investigation have convinced me beyond doubt, is the cause of the milk sickness.

I am aware that many learned Doctors and others will emphatically deny my conclusion on the subject; but notwithstanding their learned theories, my "facts are stubborn things," and during my long years of investigation I have not met *one single case* to contradict the fact that cattle feeding where the weed abounds, are liable to the *trembles* or *tires*, and persons using the milk or beef of cattle thus affected are liable to be afflicted with the disease known as milk sickness. Another fact corroborating this is, that on the prairies and cultivated grounds cattle may feed constantly, during the whole season, from year to year, and not a solitary case of that disease will ever be known, because the weed which causes that disease is *never* found on such lands. These facts and others corresponding led my old friend John Judy, now living in Sumner, Ill., some thirty years ago—then living in Clark County, Ohio, to join a neighbor of his, Arthur Acburn, to ascertain by experiment, whether this weed which abounded in the neighborhood did not cause the trembles. They went to the woods and gathered a wagon load of the weed, and took a cow and calf and yearling steer from a farm pasture, and mixed a little oats with the weed and starved the cattle till they fed on it. At the end of a week the steer was affected with the trembles, and the calf took the disease and soon died. The cow was only slightly affected because the poison had passed off with the milk. The result of this experiment was convincing to all that witnessed it,

and a large sheaf of the weed was sent to the celebrated Dr. Drake, of Cincinnati, Ohio, to be analyzed, to decide whether it was poisonous—he analyzed it, and reported that there was not enough poison in the specimen “to kill a cat” therefore it was unreasonable to suppose it would *kill* a cow. The public mind therefore remained unconvinced. But my opinion was unchanged notwithstanding the decision of the learned Doctor.

Dr. Drake and other learned Doctors have decided that it is the Poison Oak that causes this disease. The argument is that this is *very* poisonous and therefore stock that eat it *will be poisoned*. But there is a “*stubborn fact*” which spoils this theory. The Poison Oak is so *very* poisonous that cattle instinctively avoid it, and as they do not eat it, they are not poisoned by it. In proof of this I will mention that I have in a large wood pasture, several acres covered with the Poison Oak, and many times within the last 15 years, this lot has been very scarce of pasture, yet I have not seen the first branch of this nipped by my hungry cattle. The truth is this weed which causes the milk sickness is *not very* poisonous, it is *unhealthy* and cattle will eat of it, with other vegetable food, for a long time without any apparent bad effects, but a part of the stock will become diseased, while a part will escape—thus having an effect similar to that produced by any other unwholesome food.

Some will tell you, “I *know* this weed is not the cause of that disease, because in various localities, I have known and heard of poison springs where stock is liable to be poisoned that drink of the water.” Admit that cattle are liable to be diseased that drink poison water;—does that contradict the fact of their becoming unhealthy by eating poison vegetables? Another favorite theory with some is that there is in some localities, a poisonous gas that is generated in the earth, and passes through the surface and settles on the vegetation and poisons it, and cattle feeding on it, thus become diseased.

This theory might be admitted were it not for “*stubborn facts*” contradicting it. If poisonous gases are generated below the surface, they must have a mineral origin, and they would continue to pass through the surface, and be deposited on the vegetation as long as their source continued. Now it is a fact that as soon as

the woods are cleared and the land brought into cultivation this disease disappears, because this poison weed disappears, it being exterminated by cultivation; but it would be preposterous to suppose that the source of this mineral gas would be destroyed by cultivation.

I am now about 70 years of age and it has been my luck, though I have lived in various localities *truly* to live within about *three miles* of where the milk sickness prevailed, and the same distance from where the poison weed abounded. But localities in which I was intimately acquainted thirty or forty years ago, which were terribly afflicted with milk sickness, are now perfectly free from it, because by cultivation the weed which caused it, is exterminated.

One remarkable incident I will mention, about thirty years ago Governor McArthur had a wood pasture of a thousand acres on Beaver Creek, near Vienna, a town on the national road, in the eastern part of Clark County, Ohio, within three miles of where I formerly lived, this weed was very abundant all over this pasture. In the Spring the Governor put 200 head of cattle in this pasture to graze—they did well and grew fat; but in the fall, when grass grew scarce, the cattle commenced grazing on this weed and they soon began to be affected with the trembles. The result was McArthur lost about one hundred head of his cattle. The air for miles around was polluted with the stench of the carrion, and multitudes of buzzards and dogs were killed by eating it.

Last winter I visited Smith McArthur a grandson of Governor McArthur at his residence in Plattsburg, near this land which he now owns. He informs me that the land has been a long time cleared and in cultivation, and the "*milk sick weed*" as he calls it, has disappeared and his farm is now perfectly healthy for stock.

I spent several years surveying and selecting, and locating land in the Counties of Summer, Crawford, Richland, Clark and Jasper, Ill. In my explorations I frequently came into neighborhoods, where this weed abounded, and I always decided that cattle in those localities were liable to the trembles, and upon inquiry I immediately ascertained I was right in my conclusion, but the settlers gave reluctant testimony. I would call on a

settler near whose farm I saw abundance of the weed, and say Mr. A. the stock in your neighborhood are sometimes liable to the trembles. "No we are never troubled here, but about three miles up the road, they are terribly scourged." On going to Squire B's. I would remark that from the fact that there was a great abundance of the milk sick weed around him. I would say his cattle were liable to the trembles. He would say "we are not troubled in this neighborhood, but where neighbor A. lives, about three miles below this, the stock dies with the trembles awfully every fall." Thus A. and B. mutually deny and prove the same fact.

According to my promise I have written you some of my experience, observation and information in regard to the cause of milk sickness. During all these years of investigation I have not found a solitary fact to contradict the conclusion I have arrived at, that the weed I forward you is the cause of that scourge of the West, the milk sickness.

If we can demonstrate to the public that this is true, we may do a great public good, because knowing the cause of the evil, they may remove it or avoid it.

MORPHIA VALERIANATE AND TINCTURE GELSEMINUM IN ASTHMA.

BY ANNANIAS W. SAWYER, M. D., ARBELA, MO.

Messrs. EDITORS:

In several cases occurring in my practice I have (after using in vain many of the eulogized remedies of the *Materia Medica*) found in the Morphia Valerianate a magical charm, one or two doses of which completely subdued the enemy, producing in a very short time all the benefits derived from a certain emetic and expectorant. Relief is followed by much nausea and great prostration, but the respiratory organs are left cumberless and free. The nausea and prostration lasts several days. I use this powerful agent only when the usual remedies prove powerless, and the mysterious giant Gelseminum cannot break loose the suffocating grasp of this cruel monster. Lobelia, Stramonium, Gelseminum and all the other expectorants and anti-spasmodics have failed in my

hands, while the valerianate has in every instance promptly put an end to the battle. I am sorry to say however, that the effects of the remedy invariably make the patient think that he has paid "too dear for the whistle." I give medium doses of the valerianate every half hour until it acts as an emetic. I give it uncombined and never have had to dispense more than two doses in any one attack. In a majority of cases, Gelseminum proved a

"Warrior though lithe and slight,
Able to win the stubborn fight."

VERATRUM IN PNEUMONIA.

I give here the testimony of two physicians having the widest field and largest practice in this part of Missouri. Dr. John E. Henry, of Fairmont, Clark County, has used the veratrum extensively in treating pneumonia, and speaks of it in the most enthusiastic terms. Commencing with large doses of the mercurial and following with counter irritants and the *Veratrum Viride*, he has certainly managed to cure nearly all of the cases under his charge.

This is strong evidence; but now comes our well-beloved brother, Dr. R. M. Edelen, of Etna, in the same county, who for thirty-five years has been the bright particular star of the North-East Mo. profession. Saying that the veratrum is an unsafe agent and positively dangerous when gastric irritability is present, his list of pneumonia cases is as long and his success as great as Dr. Henry's, but he fights with other weapons. As an arterial sedative in some other diseases Dr. Edelin adds the heavy weight of his endorsement to the thousands that have gone before him. I cite these opinions as a preface to my conclusion—that out of the wise but often antagonistic opinions of the gray headed magnates of scientific medicine, the young practitioner must harmonize and in his experience perfect a system of his own.

CARBON BISULPHIDE, RHIGOLENE AND OLEUM, MENTHÆ PIPERITÆ, AS LOCAL ANÆSTHETICS.

S. R. NISSLEY, M. D. PEMBERTON, OHIO.

I have been in the habit of using the Bisulphide of carbon as a local

anæsthetic for several years. I have tested its efficacy and potency in facial neuralgia, hemicrania odontalgia, and lumbago, and the speedy relief it afforded to the sufferer was almost instantaneous. My mode of application was this: place a pledget of cotton into a salt mouth bottle, saturate it well with the Bisulphide and apply it to the painful part, and as soon as the patient complains of smarting sensation, change the bottle, carefully following the course of the principal nerve that seems to be involved in the difficulty. I have used a combination of Rhigolene and the oil of Peppermint as a local anæsthetic in a number of neuralgia cases, that presented themselves at my office for relief, and thus far my success in those cases has been far beyond my most sanguine expectations. After several applications they express themselves cured. I have recently been in the habit of adding an ethereal collodion to the compound, and I am gratified to say that in the combination, I have a specific, which will under almost any circumstance, when the part is accessible, relieve the patient instantaneously; its effects are magical. In a severe case of tic douloureux where the famous "Wolcott Pain Paint" failed to give the patient a moment's relief, this compound was tried and in several minutes the patient was relieved and even expressed herself free from any pain, and the apprehension of a recurrence of the fearful and terrible monster.

CARBOLIC ACID IN LEUCORRHEA.

W. B. MEAD, M. D. HUNTSVILLE, ILL.

Having had two very obstinate cases of leucorrhœa, and having prescribed remedies which had heretofore proven efficacious, with no perceptible improvement, I lastly gave the following prescription:

℞ Sat. Sol. Carbolic Acid..... f. ℥ i.
Glycerine..... f. ℥ iv.

M. Sig. Use from a half ℥ to an ℥ daily, as an injection. And after having used the following as directed I was pleased to learn that a complete recovery had been consummated. I remit these facts to you believing them to be worthy of publication.

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BUFFALO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The President Dr. JOHNSON, in the Chair.

Dr. STRONG was called, January last, to a case of croup, the patient

being a girl three years of age. From the want of success in his previous treatment of this truly formidable disease, he had very little confidence in the efficacy of medicine; and, in common with the mass of the profession, had come to regard true croup as a fatal malady. The symptoms were very conclusive fever, some difficulty in breathing, slight cough during the first twenty hours, all of which were more marked the next day, so that at night he had no hope of seeing his patient alive the next morning. The treatment had consisted mainly in the exhibition of quinia and calomel; but that night, rather as a last resort, ordered the inhalation of vapor in a room kept at a high temperature, about 90°, and also ordered bicarbonate of soda to be dissolved in the water which was evaporated. These instructions were strictly carried out, and the next morning found the patient greatly improved and in a fair way to recover. Tonics were afterwards administered, and the patient was well a few days afterwards. The most convenient method of generating the vapor was to place the patient on a chair and throw over him a quilt, then place a pail, containing the hot water, in which the soda has been dissolved, under the chair or between the feet, and throw in any cold article most convenient as bricks, pieces of iron, &c.

Dr. CROLYN fully agreed in the remarks of Dr. STRONG, and had found vapor the most valuable remedy that he had ever used. There is much difference of opinion among writers as to the treatment of croup, but they all believe it to be a diphtheritic disease. Under five years of age it is almost uniformly fatal. The use of vapor is now *sub judice* by the profession. He has always used it, and last year lost no cases. Generally he gave as remedies, in addition, the iodide of ammonium and the iodide of potash. Saw a case with Dr. TOBIE in a family where two children had died under or during treatment. This patient was treated with carbonate of ammonia and vapor, and recovered. He, also, in cases where there is marked diphtheritic exudation, gave chlorate of potash and iron.

Dr. WHITE considered the pathology and treatment of croup of great interest, and since he began the practice of medicine there has been a great change in its treatment. He did not think that any particular routine of management are adapted to all cases, but that different cases require diverse treatment, both local and internal. He believed that sustaining remedies were always indicated. He generally combined iron and chlorate potash, as follows: \mathcal{R} ferri, muriat., \mathfrak{z} i.; potass. chloratis \mathfrak{z} ss.; sacch. alb., \mathfrak{z} ii.; aq. bulient, \mathcal{O} i. Of this give two teaspoonsful every third hour. Turpeth mineral has been used by

Fordyce Barker and others extensively. It is indicated in cases where there is a large accumulation of false membrane, and the patient has sufficient strength. In this class of cases the membrane will often be dislodged by the act of vomiting. The use of vapor is of value in conjunction with the turpeth mineral; but feeble cases always require stimulants. Oxygen has been largely used in New York the past winter for the purpose of keeping the patient alive till the poison can be eliminated from the system. Has seen it prove of great value in some cases. In cases where the obstruction is confined to the larynx, tracheotomy is to be considered. While in Paris learned from Trousseau that the operation is often made; and that about twenty-eight cases in one hundred, or about one in four recover. When used it should be much earlier than is the practice in this country.

Dr. STRONG is not sure as to the value of the alkali in the vapor, although a solution of bicarbonate of soda will dissolve the false membrane out of the body; but the difficulty, he conceived, lies in getting a sufficient quantity, through the glottis, to be of any value as a solvent. He thinks that the high temperature of the room should not be overlooked. It should be kept at 100° at least.

Influenza, diarrhoea, and malarial fevers, were reported as most prevalent.—*Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, May, 1871.

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

PHYSICIANS' INCOMES.—A New York letter to the *Springfield Republican* gives the following as an account of the incomes of medical men: "A physician in good practice will receive patients at his office four hours daily, and make calls for about the same length of time. From ten to twenty callers, and half as many house patients, would be a fair average; the fees would be two and five dollars each. At these figures it would not be hard to make up an income of \$20,000 or more a year. It is stated of Dr. William Parker, I believe, that, having been called out of town to attend a patient, he returned a bill of \$300, and when it was disputed he showed by his books that his daily receipts were much over that sum. Surgeons' single charges are larger than those of physicians, though the incomes of the latter are probably the highest. For ordinary attendance their rates are about

the same, or say five dollars a visit. From twenty-five dollars upward is the charge for operations. For setting an arm or leg \$250 would be asked, larger undertakings being in proportion. For a case requiring delicate operation and six weeks' constant attendance, sometimes two or three times a day, \$1,000 was lately asked by a leading surgeon. In another instance, where a wealthy gentleman was jammed by a railroad car, he was attended by Dr. W——, who made about a dozen visits, without any important operation and sent in a bill for \$2,500, which was paid. This is exceeded by Dr. C——, who charged \$2,000 for an operation alone, while another surgeon is said to have received \$4,500 from one patient. The prices charged by dentists are quite as high as those of physicians. A man of ordinary reputation in the profession will ask from \$5 to \$30 for pulling a single tooth. Mr. A——, one of the most fashionable dentists, is reported to charge \$10 for simply examining a person's teeth, and \$25 an hour for operating on them, and has brought in a bill of \$200 for filling a single tooth. Many people refuse to pay these fancy prices, but it is a common thing to have to pay anywhere from \$10 to \$100 for a dentist's bill. Most practitioners of any reputation have engagements very far ahead. Ten days is a short time to wait for your turn; while a friend of mine, who went to Europe in the middle of last October, on applying to her dentist for treatment, was told that he could not give her a single hour's heed until February, or nearly four months in advance. Dentists are kept busy all the year round, and seldom have any leisure. Their practice is confining, and not healthy, but it is very profitable. Their incomes range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 a year, while they have no expenses for carriage hire, books or travel, and not a very heavy outlay for materials and keeping up their offices.—*Medical and Surgical Reporter*.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1871.

TINCTURE OF ARNICA IN ACUTE PULMONARY AFFECTIONS.—Mr. C. C. Balding, M. R. C. S., writes to the *Lancet*: "I am desirous of calling the attention of the profession to the value of tincture of arnica in the treatment of pneumonia and other acute pulmonary affections. Some years ago Mr. Mitchell Henry, then assistant-surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital, wrote an article in the *Lancet* advocating its use in allaying irritative traumatic fever. A few weeks after the appearance of this article I was summoned to a man, a railway porter at this station, who had been squeezed between the buffers of two trucks. I found the sternum depressed, and, consequently dislocation of sternal ends of both clavicles; he was suffering acute pain in the chest, and

was almost in a state of collapse, and, from his condition, I feared injury to the lungs. With difficulty I got the sternum in position, and when he rallied, which he soon did, I gave him five minims of tincture of arnica every four hours. To my surprise the pulse kept down; he had no febrile disturbance whatever, and in a few weeks resumed his usual occupation.

It then struck me that a drug exercising such powerful effect upon the heart's action must be of benefit in acute pneumonia, and I determined to give it a trial; and it was not long before I had an opportunity of doing so. Its good effects exceeded my hopes, and since then I have treated all my cases of acute pneumonia in adults with the remedy—for such I must call it, for I have never known it to fail. I employ it also in acute hæmoptysis; but when there is extensive tubercular disease of the lungs I have not found it to lower the circulation.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1871.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL IN SINGULTUS.—By T. L. LEAVITT, M. D., of Germantown, Pa.—No new remedy has perhaps received such universal attention and trial as the hydrate of chloral, and justly so, for during the brief period of its therapeutic existence it has proved wonderfully successful in the very many instances of its exhibition. Numerous are the testimonies of practitioners as to its merits; insomnia, acute suffering, chronic diseases, and even child-bearing, have all been recorded as relieved through its potent agency.

To add one more to the extensive list of sufferings relieved, as yet unannounced. I record the following cases of distressing singultus, which the physician has so frequently to contend with in cases of low fever and the general failing of vital power. Wearing and exhausting to the patient, and distressing to anxious friends, any pharmaceutical agent affording even temporary relief is hailed with eagerness, and most especially so after the well-worn changes have been wrung unsuccessfully on musk, ether, the bromides, and the anti-spasmodics in general.

Mr. H. æt. 60, after suffering for many years with an obscure disease, probably having its origin in the spinal cord, finally became so emaciated and debilitated as to be confined to his bed, where, after the first few days of gradual decline, a distressing and obstinate hiccough set in, producing rapid loss of strength and proving of great annoyance to the patient. Sulphuric ether in capsules, bromide of potassium and ammonium in solution, musk, camphor, etc., were all exhibited in turn,

but failed to give any permanent relief, for they lost their controlling power after a few trials. The chloral hydrate was then used in five-grain doses in solution, and arrested almost immediately the singultus, and never afterwards failed to control the spasm in a most satisfactory manner, proving of the greatest comfort to the last remaining hours of the sick man.

Two other cases of obstinate hiccough, occurring subsequently in typhoid fever, were treated in the same manner, with the same pleasing result, the patients recovering finally.

It remains, of course, for more extended trial to fully establish this drug among the remedial agents in singultus, but certainly the results in the few cases coming under my notice have proved it to be of the highest value.—*Amer. Jour. Med. Sciences.*—*Kansas City Medical Journal*, April, 1871.

STATISTICS OF SUICIDE.—According to the *British Medical Journal*, "in analyzing the statistics of inquests held, as Coroner of Central Middlesex, Dr. Lankester points out, in his seventh annual report, just prepared, that the proportion of suicides to the population in England and Wales is one in 12,000, while the proportion in Central Middlesex is about one in 13,000. The figures seem to show that of all causes of death suicide is the most constant. The proportion in which the sexes commit suicide is nearly everywhere the same. It may be stated that the proportion of males to females is as five to two. The ages at which suicide is committed are for the seven years nearly the same. One in twelve are young people under 20 years of age; a larger proportion among people above 60; and the remainder, nine-tenths of the whole, are equally divided among people from 20 to 40 years of age. A further analysis of the case shows that, as a rule, women prefer taking poison and drowning themselves. Of the twenty-three cases of female suicide in 1868-9, six were from poisoning and ten from drowning. Women seldom cut their throats or hang themselves, whilst, of the sixty-six cases of male suicide, exactly one-half choose these methods of self destruction. Men are also more given to jumping out of windows and from the top of high places.—*Med. Times.*—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1871.

EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO ON THE SIGHT.—On the subject of color-blindness and amblyopia, Dr. Richard H. Derby (*N. Y. Med. Journal*) says: "Almost always both eyes are affected. This form of amblyopia occurs almost solely in men; out of fifty-six cases only

three were women. It is a disease of adults; its frequency increasing from the twentieth to the fortieth year. In a portion of the cases abuse of alcohol was certainly the cause of the affection, and in others the excessive use of tobacco undoubtedly contributed to produce the disease. Forster, in a paper on the injurious action of tobacco on the vision, attaches still greater importance to this agent as a cause of amblyopia, supporting the views of Mackenzie, Sichel, Hutchinson, Lureiro, and others. The author cites twenty cases, in which there was a central scotoma, with a horizontal diameter of 18° to 25° , within which large letters could still be recognized. All of these patients suffered from some affection of the digestive and nervous system. Loss of appetite, constipation, loss of sleep, were common symptoms. Each one of the twenty patients was a strong smoker, and in eleven of these cases a very marked improvement was observed when the use of tobacco was given up."—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*, June, 1871.

THE POOL OF SILOAM.—The miraculous efficacy of the Pool of Siloam, as recorded in the Scriptures is familiar to us all, but its modern condition appears as fraught with danger, as was its ancient with the power of healing. Speaking of a fatal case of enteric fever, the surgeon of H. M. S., *Endymion*, Dr. Alex. Fisher, says:

"I attribute the origin of this case to the use of the water at Jerusalem, and consider ourselves fortunate in having escaped with only one case of enteric fever among the seventy-two persons visiting it. Without the walls of Jerusalem the water appears to be very good, but inside it is received into vast tanks and reservoirs beneath the Harem area, and elsewhere. These, from what I saw in the excavations recently executed by the Palestine Exploration Society, are entirely without protection from receiving a large proportion of the sewage of the city, in some cases without even the slightest filtration through earth or other obstacle. At the fountain of Siloam and Pool of Siloam, the water distinctly tasted like soap-suds, brought down by the water from the baths, etc., close to the Temple enclosure.—*Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, May, 1871.

IODIDE OF AMMONIUM PREFERRED TO IODIDE OF POTASSIUM.—Dr. J. W. CURRAN (*Medical Press and Circular*) is confirmed in the belief that iodide of ammonium is more potent in therapeutics than iodide of potassium. He gives it the preference in the treatment of glandular affections, and extols it highly in cutaneous erysipelas. His method of applying it in erysipelas is in the form of ointment spread on lint,

as well as internally. The ointment is composed of thirty grains of the iodide to an ounce of simple cerate. He says it rapidly promotes absorption of the effusion underneath the skin, and has been uniformly successful in sixteen cases. He also gives, internally, four grains three times a day, with infusion of cinchona. "I am proud to say," he continues, "that the rash has never spread beyond the annointed lint." —*Med. Record.*—*Kansas City Medical Journal*, April, 1871.

TREATMENT OF SCIATICA.—Dr. J. WARING CURRAN (*Med Press and Circular*) usually treats this affection as follows: In a small porcelain vessel one grain of morphia and three grains of extract of belladonna are mixed with six drops of creasote. He gets the patient out of bed, standing as erect as the nature of the disease will permit, and begins to make small incisions half an inch long, with an intervening space of three inches between each incision, cutting only through the skin and subcutaneous cellular tissues. The incisions are made alternate on each side of the nerve, beginning underneath the fold of the gluteus maximus. Having wiped off the effused blood, the composition is quickly rubbed in. The morphia and belladonna allay the pain, and the creasote sets up, if properly applied, a certain amount of local irritation, which is very desirable.—*Kansas City Med. Jour.*, April, 1871.

TETANUS PRODUCED BY THE ADMINISTRATION OF QUINIA HYPODERMICALLY.—A case of this character is reported by E. Paul Sale, M. D., Aberdeen, Miss., in the *New Orleans Journal of Medicine*. The patient aged nineteen, mother of twins, æt. three months, was suffering from *malarial coma*, the result of a tertian intermittent fever of two months' duration. Desiring to rapidly quininize her, he administered in the arm, by hypodermic injection, quinia, gr. vj., of an ethereal solution.

Four days afterwards the arm was much tumefied, hot, and very painful to the touch, where the syringe was inserted. Twelve days from the injection, Dr. Sale was summoned to the patient's bedside to prescribe for trismus with opisthotonos; but she succumbed, after receiving the best of treatment. The chief point developed by this case is this: It shows the deleterious effects which frequently follow the use of quinine hypodermically. This is the fourth case out of ten in which he has had cause to regret resorting to this method of medication, on account of the violent inflammation which has been the sequence. —*Med. Record.*—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, April, 1871.

DOCTOR'S TITLE.—The title of Doctor was invented in the twelfth

century. Irnerius, a learned professor of law at the University of Bologna, induced the Emperor Lothaire II, whose chancellor he was, to create the title, and he himself was the first recipient of it; he was made Doctor of Laws by that University. Subsequently the title was borrowed by the faculty of theology, and first conferred by the University of Paris on Peter Lombard. William Gordenio was the first person upon whom the title of Doctor of Medicine was bestowed; he received it from the College of Asti, in 1329.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, April, 1871.

A CHINESE THEORY OF SUDDEN DEATH.—A telegraph line, about fifteen miles long, having been constructed near Shanghai, the natives supposed that the messages were carried along the wires by devils in the employ of the foreign barbarians. To this they made no objection, until a Chinaman chanced to die suddenly in a house near which stood one of the telegraph poles. It then occurred to another native genius (an amateur coroner) that one of the devils had come down from the wire and killed the unfortunate man; whereupon he and his compatriots proceeded to destroy the dangerous apparatus.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1871.

POISON OAK—TETANUS.—Dr. W. W. Dunn, of Louisiana, writes us: "I consider a decoction of the leaves of a tree, known with us as cotton wood, a specific for poison oak. I prescribe a teacupful several times a day until the disease is cured. I never knew it to fail. There is no danger; the patient can drink *ad libitum*. There is also a small, creeping vine, with us known as May pop, which we have tried successfully in tetanus. Make a strong decoction, and give freely until emesis is produced, and all the spasms, rigidity of muscles, the annoying symptoms, speedily vanish as if by magic.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1871.

VACCINATION IN HOT WEATHER.—In India vaccination is only performed during the cold season. All attempts that have been made during the hot and rainy season have completely failed. If the hot season of India so completely nullifies the effects of the vaccine virus, possibly a series of carefully noted cases during the summer months in this country might modify the prevailing view that vaccination is equally successful and protective no matter what season of the year performed.—*American Eclectic Medical Review*, June, 1871.

Editorial.

[Correspondence.]

ROTUNDA LYING-IN HOSPITAL,

Dublin, Ireland, June 11, 1871.

Messrs. EDITORS :

For the present our jauntings are over, and the excitement of sight-seeing is exchanged for the monotony of Hospital routine. We are now booked for a tarry of several months in Dublin, where we shall have the leisure to give you from time to time, sketches of the renowned places which we have visited.

Irish scenery is captivating. The beauties of beautiful Wicklow, as seen *en route* to, or as the eye catches them from some commanding eminence in the Irish Capital, seem more like a "picture set in a frame of hills," but of these we will write hereafter, wishing now to engage your attention for a hurried look at Liverpool and a journey to London. Liverpool, London and Dublin. Each has its several respective attractions, an exhaustive and detailed description of which would require a large and full volume. But we must be content with a brief and imperfect allusion to the many charming scenes and interesting localities included in our tour through these cities, nearly to stimulate the appetite of our readers that they may long for the rich feast which nature, aided by science, art and *servile* industry, has here abundantly provided. No diction, however prolific and complete, can enable one to conceive the mingled feelings of pleasurable emotion inspired by the grandeur and sublimity of the old cities and their surroundings. The eye of every individual tourist wanders to some central feature, around which all of her collateral sights and objects revolve in the minority, which probably would have escaped the attention of another as important or particularly interesting, while the mind requires this peculiar stimulating influence of ocular demonstration to prepare it to imbibe inspiration and become enraptured in its contemplations to the degree it may be susceptible.

Liverpool stands fronting the Irish Sea, on the north side of the Mersey's mouth. According to the census of 1870, it has a population of more than half a million. It is the second city of the United Kingdom in population and commerce. The Docks, the grand lions of the town, extend in in one magnificent range of five miles along the river. The Dock area is estimated at nearly 300 acres, with quay accomodation about twenty miles in length. The large sums of money annually expended on the improvement of the place by the corporation

have secured for the city broad and handsome streets and well constructed buildings. Within the last eighty-five years, \$1500,000,000 have been spent on town improvements. Her docks, streets, public buildings, cemeteries, parks, monuments, and immediate rural surroundings, have attractions in the display in symmetry, taste, method and vast expenditure of money, in the different orders of architecture and in the beautiful proportions of nature made still more beautiful by human toil. Having secured the services of a driver competent to act as interpreter and courier, we radiated from the North Western Hotel, in a "Hansom" to see the city, among whose interesting objects and localities we consumed nearly three days, and were amply rewarded. We were driven down Bold, Hardman, and other principal streets containing handsome statues and monuments and bordered by edifices of marked solidity and architectural grandeur, past the Town Hall, Exchange Buildings, Revenue Ionic Pile, St. Nicholas, the oldest church in the city, to Seftons, Princes, and many other Parks, around Lord Sefton's estate, to St. James' Cemetery. This burial place lies nearly in the central part of the city, laid out in an old stone quarry, with catacombs and a mausoleum containing Gibson's statue of Huskinson. We enter it through a stone archway, down a declivity of twenty or more feet, to a strongly walled basin covering perhaps an area of one acre. Unique and singular epitaphs catch our eye, and sometimes elicit merriment to the momentary forgetfulness of the solemn associations of the place, and that affection framed the lines we thought to read in jest.

Beautiful, indeed, is this necropolis. The ivy-mantled hoary walls, venerable and branching shade trees, fountains, ornamental shrubbery, stately and imposing monumental memorials and love's hallowed chaplets on graves by no means newly made, evidencing that affection may have something more enduring than an ephemeral existence; all combine to render this city of the dead a really attractive spot. Here we stand midway between the living and the dead. What fitter place for contemplation? Above us peerage and rank are recognized; Lords disdain companionship with the humble born: while—

"Underground

Precedency's a jest; vassal and lord

Grossly familiar, side by side consume."

But we must no longer dwell on Liverpool. We shall now enter the rail-way express carriage *en route* for London; careful to select a carriage which is vacant, and well in the front if we would protect

ourselves from the dust, and to secure exclusive occupancy we drop, though cautiously, a shilling into the hand of the Guard. Notices to passengers, posted in conspicuous places, positively declare the Guards will receive no *fees*. He takes the *hint*, locks the door, and gives us to understand we may apprehend no intrusion unless under pressure of circumstances. The fee will generally buy the Guard and accomplish its mission. Leaving Liverpool at the Lime St. Station, the train rushes on at a fearful speed, often at the rate of one mile a minute. The country through which we pass, abounds in beautiful valleys and rich fields where the prospect is enchanting and fairy-like; the views so abound as to form a continuous panorama of charming and beautiful sights. But the baneful tendency of a protected titled aristocracy is everywhere painfully present. We discover it in the paucity, narrowness and turfy state of the highways; in the lack of individual enterprise, in the fettered aspirations of the mass as evidenced by their exterior or natural sequence of a political system which necessitates the family prestige to secure official and social positions, or to attain national honors or emoluments of any kind.

As we journey on, we are hurried by many important places, which possess interesting legendary or historical associations, but we must forbear reference to a few only. We pass Tamworth, once the property of the Narmions, touch at Rugby, celebrated, wherever learning is esteemed, for its famous Grammar School, of which the late Dr. Arnold was for some time head master, near to which is Bilton Hall, once the residence of Addison; and some twelve miles from London, we come in sight of the Church and School of Harrow, beautifully situated on an isolated hill. Harrow School was founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and now ranks among the most celebrated classical Schools in England. Many distinguished men have been educated here, among whom were Lord Byron, Sir Robert Peel, and the late Lord Palmerston. We are now close upon the city and nothing of moment arrests the notice till we find ourselves in *London*.

[We have the pleasure of presenting to our readers with this number the first of a series of letters from Dr. X. T. BATES, a son of the Senior Editor of this Journal, who in company with a son of Mr. H. A. TILDEN, is now prosecuting a course of professional study and observation in the great Medical Schools of the Old World. Dr. B. is at present engaged as assistant Surgeon at the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital in Dublin—one of the first theatres of obstetric practice, and we are confident that his letters descriptive of medical treatment there, as well as in the large Hospitals of Edinburgh, Paris and Berlin, all of which he will visit in turn, will prove of great interest to the profession.]

ED.

Practical Notes.

BY THEODORE C. MILLER, M. D.

CANTHARIDES IN GLEET AND GONORRHOEA.—Dr. Hennessy, of La Salle, Ill., claims this rather a new treatment; but before him have men like Tr. Hoffmann, Bartholin, Mead, Werlhof, Eberle, Robertson and many others used this agent.

I have used myself for several years in obstinate cases the following :

℞ Tinct. Cantharides.....	
Canada Balsam.....	
Fluid Ext. Gelsemium.....	aa 3 ii.

M. D. S. Well shaking, 20 drops 4 times a day.

CURE FOR CORNS.—Bathe the feet well in warm water, then with a sharp instrument pare off as much of the corn as can be done without pain or causing it to bleed, and dress once a day with the following salve :

℞ Black Oxide of Copper.....	gr. 15.
Lard.....	℥ s. M.

ECZEMA.—I have treated a very obstinate case of this disease, which baffled two other physicians with nothing but the Fluid Extract of Sassafras.

CATARRH OF THE BRONCHIA.—During the month of March I treated many cases of this kind with the following :

℞ Tinct. Gelseminie.....	3 i.
“ Sanguinariae.....	3 ss.
Aq. Lupuli.....	℥ iv.

M. S. A teaspoonful three times a day in water.

GRANULAR LIDS.—In some forms of this disease I have used successfully the following :

℞ Liq. Ferri Sesquichloridi.....	
(Prussian Pharmacopœia).....	gr. i.
Aq. destill.....	℥ i.

M. S. Apply four times a day.

PULSATILLA IN DISEASES OF THE FEMALE ORGANS OF GENERATION.—This is a very old remedy, already spoken of by Fuchs in his “*Kraut-terbuch (Herbal)*,” (Basel, 1543.); and afterwards praised by Prof. Stoerk. (Libellus de usu medico Pulsatillæ nigricantis, Vindobon, 1771.) Prof. Schœnlein praised it in his lectures (1829). But it is no direct remedy, only a symptomatic one.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

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Communications.

REMARKS on the AMERICAN NATURAL ORDERS
OF PLANTS, WITH REFERENCE CHIEFLY TO
THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL and THERAPEUTICAL
EFFECTS. WINES and their ADULTERATIONS.

BY C. A. LEE, M. D.

VITACEÆ.—The *Vine Family* includes shrubs, with watery juice, usually climbing by tendrils, with small irregular flowers. The order inhabits woods in the milder and hotter parts of both hemispheres, especially the East Indies.

PROPERTIES.—Acidulous and saccharine fruit, and astringent leaves characterize the plants. The acid of the grape is chiefly the tartaric; malic acid is also found. The sugar contained in grapes differs slightly from common sugar in composition, containing a smaller quantity of carbon. (TURNER.)

VITIS VINIFERA.—The grape; Linnean system.—*Pentandria Monogynia*.

Description.—The *Vitis* is a climbing shrub, with a calyx nearly entire; corolla 4-5; petals united at apex, distinct at base; stamens 5; style short; stigma dilated; berry 1-4 seeded, cells

and seeds often abortive; leaves lobed, sinuated, toothed, smooth or downy, flat or crisp, pale or deep green; the branches prostrate, climbing or erect; racemes loose or compact, ovate or cylindrical; fruit or berries red, yellow, purple, or white, watery or fleshy, globose-ovate, or oblong, sweet, musky, or austere.

History.—In regard to the species of this important genus, it is impossible to come to any positive conclusions, either they must all be considered as varieties of one single kind, or be extended almost indefinitely. It is stated by GRIFFITH, that more inhabiting the United States, differ less from each other than do many of the cultivated varieties of the *V. Vinifera*, and they can hardly be distinguished from some of those except that they are more uniformly *polygamous*, (*Med. Bot.*, p. 221.) No less than 1400 varieties are cultivated in the Luxembourg gardens at Paris: and RAFINESQUE describes 41 species of those peculiar to North America, 163 of foreign origin, besides numerous varieties; and he states that Mr. ADLUM, who had paid much attention to the subject, stated to him that he had distinguished 200 varieties in a wild state in the United States. GRAY has described but 6 species indigenous to North America and WOOD 5; from which I infer, they consider the others as mere varieties.

There are *V. Labrusca* (*Northern Fox Grape*) *V. Aestivalis*, *Michx.*, (*Summer Grape*), *V. Cordifolia* (*Winter or Frost Grape*), *V. Vulpina*, (*Muscadine, or Southern Fox Grape*), *V. Indivisa*, *Wild*, and *V. Bipinnata*.—Most of the cultivated grapes of the United States are *Hybrids*, as *Iona*, *Delaware*, *Isabella*, *Catawba*, *Concord*, *Israella*, *Schuylkill*, *Ives seedling*, *Bland's Grape*, etc. The only reliable grapes for the Northern and Western States as New England New York, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, &c., are the Concord and Clinton; the Hartford Prolific and Delaware succeed well in the Southern portions of Minnesota and corresponding latitudes; but the Delaware has met with favor and success in Nebraska, Illinois and Missouri. It is now generally agreed that the Concord is the grape for all the West; possessing more good qualities, and fewer poor ones than any other, both for eating and as a first-class wine grape, as a general rule however for the table, the Concord ranks first; for wine, Ives Seedling, Northern Virginia and Clinton are not surpassed.

On analysis, a native grape grown in the neighborhood of Albany, N. Y., yielded as follows: amount of juice, 65 per cent. Specific gravity of filtered juice, not neutralized, 1,084; dry grape sugar, by Fehling's test, 7,66 per cent; acid neutralized, calculated as dry tartaric, 8,05 per cent; cream of tartar present, 1,146 per cent.

A native grape from Pepperell, Mass. yielded the following results; specific gravity, 1,007; tartaric acid per oz. 0, 38 gr.; sugar, a trace; free acid, 3,33 per cent; extract 2,4 per cent; spirit, 9,6 per cent.

It will be seen from the above that the amount of sugar in the native grape, grown at the North is far too little to make a wine that will keep without reinforcement with spirit, or a considerable extra amount of sugar. It has been found that in the culture of the vine, the annual mean temperature should be between 50° and 63° Fah.; or the mean temperature may be as low as 43°, provided that of the Summer reaches 68°. In Europe, these conditions are found to exist as far North as latitude 50°, but in the United States, not beyond 40°, on the Eastern Sea-board, but at a somewhat higher latitude in the valley of the Mississippi. In both hemispheres, the profitable cultivation of the vine for wine, ceases at about 30°, except in elevated situations, in the neighborhood of inland lakes, or on Islands, as on lake Erie, etc. Thus the regions of vineyards occupies about 20° in breadth in Europe, but not more than half that extent in the United States. The late NICHOLAS LONGWORTH of Cincinnati, spent a considerable portion of his life, and a large amount of money, in endeavoring to demonstrate the practicability of making good wines in the latitude of 30°, but with partial success; for however excellent may be the quality of some of the LONGWORTH wines, the cost of their production should be such as to render them profitable. The difficulty of making good wines in this country, North of the latitude above-mentioned, arises from the circumstance that the short season will not always allow the grapes to mature perfectly. A well extended season and warm sunshine are necessary to properly mature the grapes and elaborate its products particularly, sugar, on which depends the quality of the wine as well as its durability. The best wines are made from grapes containing, in

proper proportions, sugar, water and acids; and to give them this proportion of constituent matter, the most favorable climate and soil are necessary; even with these advantages, so much depends on the seasons, and a variety of causes, that the best article can not always be produced.

It is well known that the celebrated wines of France and Germany, which constitute standards of excellence throughout the world, are not always made with certainty. The famous vineyards which produce the Steinberg and Johannesburg wines do not come up to their highest standard oftener than once in five or six years, and the grade of this wine is sometimes so low as to be excelled by the best years of other vineyards, possessing few or none of their advantages.

It is evident then, that no locality can be recommended for all seasons, no particular soil for all latitudes, and no single variety of grape for all localities. The variety of grape should be adapted to the soil and climate, and that variety which contains in greatest quantity, the essentials for wines in the gathering season, should be the grape adopted for its special locality. The Concord, or other early maturing variety, rich in sugar, would probably give as good a wine, in the latitude of New York, as the Isabella, Ives Seedling, or other variety requiring a longer season, would give in the latitude of Richmond Virginia, all other things being equal. Yet it must be admitted that as continuous sunshine and a long season enrich the grape; the chances for successful wine-making are more favorable in the South than in the North.

We hold that in the Middle, Southern and some of the Western States, as well as near the borders and on the Islands of some of our inland lakes, as good wines can be made with proper care, as in any country in Europe; and on some accounts it is desirable, both in a medicinal, and hygienic point of view, that we should be independent of foreign nations, in regard to our supply of this important article. There are several reasons why American wines are generally so inferior to the foreign, one of which is, that our grapes are often picked from the vines before they are ripe; forgetful of the fact, that perfection of color does not always indicate maturity, as nature continues her elaboration and refinement of the juices, long after the coloring is completed, and even until the

grapes shrivel. Our grapes are generally picked in September, or the first week in October; but in the same latitude in Germany and France, the grapes are allowed to hang until frost, or even late in November. It is not that American grapes are unfit for making good wine, as is generally assumed, but because they are picked too early. Sufficient care is not bestowed upon the picking, crushing, pressing, fermentation and other processes necessary for its production. It is true, we cannot grow grapes of equal merit in the same degree of latitude as in Europe, because the isothermal line in the United States, runs much further South; but still, we have an abundance of grapes, particularly the *Concord*, which ripen early, and will acquire all the perfect wine essentials, by hanging late upon the vines; or they can be ripened by picking and laying on straw in well ventilated rooms. Grapes are not to be picked all at once, particularly those of the same variety, without regard to difference in ripening. In Europe, several pickings as I have observed, are made from the same vine, selecting only those clusters which are fully ripe. The berries ripen unevenly on the same vine, and even in the same cluster. The failure, thus far, to make good American wines, is then, no proof that they can not be made here, if we use well matured grapes, and the proper management, in combination with skill and experience. For the details of the processes employed in successful wine-making, and *vine-culture*, we must refer to treatises specially devoted to these subjects. American housewives are in the habit of making domestic wines from black-berries, elder-berries, currants and a variety of fruits and vegetables, but we rarely meet with grape wines of domestic manufacture, on account of an opinion which exists, that it requires greater skill and more experience to make wine of grapes. But such an opinion is now known to be fallacious, for by careful treatment, and a knowledge of the principles of wine-making, a far superior article can be made of grapes, at the same expense and trouble, than can be made from any other fruit. (See A. Appendix.)

In regard to the native wines, made at present in New England, New York and the Middle States, excluding those of California, we may safely say they have no distinctive character. The color can be regulated from a white to a golden or dark wine, but the

flavor and other characteristics are dependent upon artificial management or, are merely accidental. Our domestic wines are usually made with the addition of more or less sugar and alcohol; the former being added before, and the latter after the fermentation of the *must*, or unfermented juice, in proportions of from half a pound to three pounds to the gallon, and from a gill to a pint of either alcohol, wine-spirits, or white brandy, according to the maturity of the grapes, or according to their quality; but from well-matured grapes, which have hung upon the vine, until their skins become thin and somewhat shriveled, good wine can be made without any additions whatever.

In wine made from perfectly mature grapes, the addition of sugar may be detected by the taste, and the largest amount above named, would make a cordial or syrup, instead of a wine, from the fact that there would not be a proper ballance of acid, which is necessary in a good wine; but in the *must* of unripe grapes, the acid already exists in far too great a proportion to the water and saccharine principles. Sugar and water may, therefore, be added with advantage, though the result will be a wine of less durability, and probably of a lower grade. An artificial liquor, called wine, such as nine-tenths of all the *Champagne* drank in the United States, not containing a single drop of grape juice, is drank by the inexperienced, and perhaps by good judges, without a suspicion of its true character, and is even preferred by some to genuine wine of inferior quality. I found that in the Bordeaux districts of France, water is added to wine at the rate of from *fifteen to sixty per cent.*, while sugar is also added in proportion. In Spain, where the grapes are richer in saccharine matter, water is added without the sugar. In the wine vaults of London, the proprietors told me they added thirty per cent. of brandy to all the *Sherry* wines exported to this country, and to the *Port*, a still larger percentage.

But our grapes are so deficient in sugar and in consequence, the alcoholic property, that unless they are properly matured, we find it necessary to enrich the *must* rather than weaken it; in order to produce a wine equal in all respects to the Bordeaux of France or Malaga of Spain.

Composition of Wines.—Wines are composed of water, alcohol, sugar, resino-mucilaginous extractive, coloring matter, tannin, bi-

tartrate of potash, malic acid, carbonic acid, cœnanthic ether; volatile oil, sugar; carbonic acid, and tannin exist in some wines only; in many, malic acid is present in very minute quantity; and the greater part are free of tannin, or nearly so. They differ much from one another in the respective proportion of their constituents. These differences depend partly on original differences in the grape partly on differences in climate or cultivation, partly on differences of management, before, during, and after fermentation; and sometimes upon express additions being made to alter the flavor.

The juice in the unripe grape contains the above constituents with the exception of gum, sugar, cœnanthic ether a small quantity of ferment, and alcohol; as the grape ripens, gum appears first in the juice, then grape sugar is formed, in part at the expense of the citric and tartaric acids. The insoluble glutinoid substance, or variety of *ferment* does not form essentially a part of the juice itself, but appears to be derived from the cells of the husk; and so long as the ripe grape remains entire, it undergoes little change beyond gradual desiccation, and a further conversion of its acid into sugar. When the grape is crushed, or its juice expressed, and the temperature maintained at about 70°, F., fermentation ensues through the action of the air and of the glutenoid principle from the husk; which here preforms the same part as yeast does in the fermentation of malt or a solution of sugar. The result is the disengagement of carbonic acid, the disappearance of the sugar, and the formation of alcohol. According to LIEBIG, a small quantity of an aromatic, flavoring principle, called *cœnanthic ether*, is also developed. Where the juice of the grape, only, is used, or the grapes have a colorless husk, the wine, which is formed, is of a pale straw color; but if the husks are red and not separated, the color of the wine is a fine amber, or deep red. Other changes in the fluid are prevented by the action of sulphurous acid vapor on the *ferment*, and afterwards, by removing this principle entirely, as well as any other floating impurities, by a mixture of isinglass and white of egg, whose gelatin and albumen,—forming bulky precipitates, the former with the tannin of the wine, the latter by coagulation under the influence of its alcohol—thus carrying down with them all fine insoluble particles. This is called the process of *fining*.

When the process of fermentation is arrested at an early stage, a considerable part of the sugar remaining unchanged, *sweet wines* are obtained. *Sparkling wines*, as Champagne, are formed, by working the wine in strong bottles before the fermentation has ceased. In making the *Sparkling Catawba* in Cincinnati, and the West, a quantity of *rock candy* is added to each bottle. In making artificial Champagne, the fluid is artificially charged with carbonic acid. *Dry wines* are formed by allowing the fermentation to go on in the cask, till the sugar is used up; during which, bitartrate of potash is deposited in crusts on the side of the cask, along with the coloring matter, while the remaining sugar is slowly converted into alcohol. These are also called *Still wines*.

The varieties of wine are almost innumerable. They are variously divided according to their sensible qualities, their leading constituents, or their commercial sources. The general division is into—*still*, *sparkling* and *sweet wines*. The first and most important class may be divided into *strong and weak wines*—CHRISTISON subdivides the former into *Portugal wines*, including red and white Port; and *White Wines*, properly so called, including *Sherry*, *Malaga*, *Alicant*, and other Spanish White Wines, *Dry Lisbon*, *Madeira*, *Teneriffe*, *Marsala*, and *Cape-Madeira*. The division of weak still wines, according to the same authority, includes, first, *Bordeaux* or *Claret*, *Burgundy*, *Sauterne*, and many other white wines of France, and secondly, the greater number of German Wines confounded in common speech under the two designations of *Hock* and *Moselle*. Sweet wines, which scarcely have a place in the *Materia Medica*, are principally *Tokay*, *Frontignan*, *Constantia*, *Sweet Lisbon*, *Malmsey*, *Rives Altes*. The Greek and many of the Italian wines, California, and the Vineyards of the Western States, including those of New York, furnish us both still and sparkling wines; also imitations of Port, and other varieties of foreign wines; equal in most respects to the best imported, and probably better for medicinal use. The best imported wines for medicinal use, are Sherry, Champagne and Madeira, though the latter has nearly ceased to be brought into the country; and there is no article of genuine Port to be met with. Nearly all the imported Champagne is a factitious production, made of the cheaper French wines, and manufactured at Mayence, and other places on the Rhine.

Amount of Alcohol in Wine.

The amount of alcohol in wine, varies from *six to seventeen per cent.* by weight. CHRISTISON thinks that the percentage of alcohol in wines has been over-estimated. The following tables show what is known on the subject:

MR. BRANDE'S TABLE.

Rectified Spirit (.825 density.) by volume in 100.

Scotch Whiskey,	54.82...	Constantia, White,	19.75...	Tincture,	14.22
Irish Whiskey,	53.90...	Lachryma Christi,	19.70...	Barsal,	13.86
Rum,	53.68...	Sherry Strongest,	19.89...	Champagne, still,	13.80
Brandy,	53.89...	Mean,	19.17...	" Sparkling,	12.80
Hollands,	51.60...	Weakest,	18.25...	Tent,	13.80
Life Wine,	...	Vidonia,	19.25...	Rives Altes	12.79
Strongest,	36.47...	Lisbon,	18.94...	Vin de Grave,	
Mean,	25.41...	Bricellas,	18.49...	Strongest,	13.94
Weakest,	24.45...	Constantia, Red,	18.92...	Mean,	13.37
Marsala Wine,	...	Calcavada,	...	Weakest,	12.80
Strongest,	26.03...	Strongest,	19.20...	Côte Rôtic	12.32
Mean,	25.09...	Mean,	18.65...	Red Hermitage,	12.72
Weakest,	54.05...	Weakest,	18.10...	Gooseb'y wine,	11.84
Raisin Wine,	...	Cape Muscat,	18.25...	Hock, Strongest,	14.37
Strongest,	26.40...	Roussilon	...	Mean,	11.93
Mean,	25.12...	Strongest,	19.00...	Weakest,	11.70
Weakest,	23.20...	Mean,	18.13...	Orange wine,	11.26
Port, Strongest,	25.89...	Weakest,	17.26...	Tokay,	9.88
Mean,	22.98...	Grape Wine,	18.11...	Elder wine,	8.76
Weakest,	21.40...	Malaga, Strongest,	18.04...	Cydis, Strongest,	9.87
Madeira,	...	Mean,	18.10...	Mean,	7.56
Strongest,	24.43...	Weakest,	17.26...	Weakest,	5.21
Mean,	24.17...	White Hermitage,	17.43...	Perry,	7.26
Weakest,	23.93...	Alba Flora,	17.26...	Burton Ale,	8.88
Currant Wine,	20.55...	Zante,	17.05...	Edinburgh Ale,	6.22
Cape Madeira,	...	Malmsey,	16.40...	Dorchester Ale,	5.56
Strongest,	22.94...	Shiraz,	15.52...	Average of Ales,	6.87
Mean,	20.51...	Lund,	15.52...	Brown Stout,	6.80
Weakest,	19.11...	Syracuse,	15.28...	London Porter,	4.20
Social,	21.40...	Claret,	...	Small Beer,	1.28
Strongest,	22.80...	Strongest,	17.11...		
Mean,	20.34...	Mean,	15.10...		
Weakest,	19.24...	Weakest,	12.91...		
Toneriffe,	19.79...	Nice,	14.63...		
Celaras,	19.75...	Burgundy,	...		
Red Madeira,	...	Strongest,	16.60...		
Strongest,	22.80...	Mean,	14.57...		
Mean,	20.35...	Weakest,	11.95...		
Weakest,	18.40...				

Source of the Alcohol.

Most of the alcohol of wines is derived from the fermentation of the sugar contained in the grape juice, from which they are

made. A small amount may be derived from the acids of the juice; in some cases, the amount is increased by adding starch, sugar before fermentation; and in still more, brandy is added, either to prevent destructive changes in the wine, or to please the palate of consumers. We have already stated, that most of our imported wines are strengthened in this manner. It is generally believed by Chemists, that alcohol in wine, is in such a state of combination with the other principles, as to be more digestible and less intoxicating than in its pure forms. It is however, easily separated, both by distillation, and the addition of Carbonate of potash, which has a strong affinity for water, but none for alcohol. The alcoholic strength of wine is not increased by age, though its peculiar flavor is, and thus its apparent strength or *body* is enhanced.

Cause of Acidity of Wines.

The acids contained in wine, as stated above, are *malic, carbonic, tannic, and tartaric*. These are mostly combined with potash. The bitartrate of potash is most abundant in new wine, and diminishes with keeping, partly by deposition, partly by its change into other principles. It is owing to the large amount of this salt and malic acid in wines that renders them so tart. This is particularly the case with the cheaper wines of France, Germany and our own country. The tartness, however, in the better class of wines (such as the California, the still Catawba, and in those of Bordeaux, France,) disappears in a great measure, often altogether, as they ripen in the bottle. Acetic acid, however, may cause tartness, also, as this is often developed where the liquor passes beyond the vinous fermentation; and this effectually destroys the peculiar vinous flavor and ruins the wine, especially for medical use. This flavor which distinguishes wine from all other vinous drinks, is mainly owing to a peculiar substance, called *ænanthic ether*, by LIEBIG, its discoverer. It is not to exceed the forty thousandth part of the wine. It may be obtained towards the close of the distillation of wine, on the great scale for making brandy. It is colorless, of a powerful intoxicating odor, and a strong, peculiar-unpleasant taste. Its density is .862. It boils at about 440°; alcohol dissolves it; but it is insoluble in water and passes over with it in distillation only in very small quantity. It consists of

18 equivalents of carbon, the same of hydrogen, and three equivalents of oxygen. It seems to regulate the strength of the flavor of wine, or what is called its *bouquet*; but the quality of flavor peculiar to each sort depends on a volatile oil, either present in the juice from the first, or engendered during fermentation.

CHRISTISON supposes that all wines containing *œnanthic ether* possesses the property of stimulating and intoxicating in a degree, and with a velocity out of all proportion great, in reference to the amount of alcohol they contain; and that their effects also pass off more quickly than those of other kinds of wine.

[To be continued in the next Number.]

REMARKS ON THE MEDICINAL PLANTS BELONGING TO THE NORTH AMERICAN ORDERS, CHIEFLY IN REFERENCE TO THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTICAL PROPERTIES.

BY CHARLES A. LEE, M. D.

ORDER XXVII. *Rhamnaceæ*. The *Buckthorn* family has but 4 genera native to North America, and 33 species, viz: *Berchemia*, *Rhamnus*, *Sagoretia*, *Ceanothus*.

Rhamnus Catharticus, Buckthorn—The berries or fruit; 12 species are found native to this country, including the above, which some botanists suppose to have been introduced from Europe; but as it is found in the most retired mountain districts, it is probably indigenous.

PROPERTIES.—The berries are powerfully cathartic, a syrup made of them is officinal, and the only form in which it is used. Dose $\frac{1}{2}$ a fluid $\frac{2}{3}$ to one $\frac{2}{3}$.

Rhamnin a neutral ternary, organic principle (the *Cathartin* of Winkler) is soluble and tasteless; occurs in the form of yellowish crystals, sol. in alkalis, is obtained from the unripe berries; $1\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ of *Cathartin* or *Rhamnin* is obtained from 15 lbs. of green berries.

Ceanothus Americanus, (*Red Root*, *New Jersey Tea*).—Bark of the root. This indigenous shrub is very common, especially in the Western States. Its leaves are astringent and slightly bitter, and have been used as a substitute for tea, which in color and taste they much resemble. The root is officinal and sometimes used for dyeing purposes. Its active principles are extracted by water. *Composition*, Tannin, a soft resin, bitter extractive, green coloring matter, gum. *Ceanothine*.—This is obtained from the leaves by the action of alcohol, in the form of a white powder, resembling green tea in odor and taste. It is soluble in water, but nearly insoluble in alcohol. (See *Prac. Pharm.*, by PARRISH, p. 286.)

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Astringent, tonic, alterative, expectorant. Well adapted to cases where an astringent tonic is indicated; forms a good gargle in the aphthæ of children, used successfully in diarrhea and dysentery; and as an injection in gleet, leucorrhea, &c.

Used in form of infusion, decoction, fluid extract, tincture, &c.

ORDER XXVIII.—LEGUMINOSÆ. The *Pulse* tribe of the vegetable kingdom is characterized by papilionaceous flowers and a leguminous fruit; including herbs, shrubs and trees. The order includes 467 genera, and 6,500 species, of which 350 are native to North America. TORREY and GRAY, give 66 genera, and 639 species as indigenous.

PROPERTIES.—The medical properties of this order are numerous and diversified, though the general character is eminently wholesome, as it includes all the varieties of peas, beans, lentiles, clover, &c. In medicine, among other products it furnishes the Glycyrrhiza, the Senna, various species of Cassia, Tamarinds, Gum Senegal, Acaciæ, and Tragacanth, Kino Catechu, Balsam Tolu and Peru, Copaiba, Brazil wood, Logwood, Rose-wood, Locust, Red Sandal wood, Cowhage, etc. In this extensive family are thus embraced, stimulants, tonics, alteratives, diuretics, diaphoretics, cathartics, narcotics, astringents, emetics, refrigerants, anthelmintics, febrifuges, stomachics, deobstruents, emmenagogues, expectorants, nervines, anti-spasmodics, &c.

Notwithstanding this extensive order embraces so many valuable plants, the most important are not indigenous to North

America. Those genera which have been found most useful as furnishing remedies for diseases are the following:

Baptisia Tinctoria, Wild Indigo.—The leaves and bark of the root.

COMPOSITION.—*Baptisin*, tannin, a resin, coloring matter, an acid, etc.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—When fresh, this plant is powerfully emetic and purgative, but loses its activity by drying. It is powerfully anti-septic, when applied externally in the form of a strong decoction, to gangrenous parts, while used at the same time, as a drink internally. It also forms an excellent wash for foul ulcers, mercurial and aphthous sore mouth, according to Dr. J. MOUNTAIN, COMSTOCK and others, it arrests gangrene and mortification with great promptitude and certainty, as a gargle in malignant cynanche, and ulcers. In sore throat it is quite remarkable for its prompt and energetic action, as an ointment, also, for sore nipples, and as a poultice in foul gangrenous ulcers and sores. Internally, it is much used by the Eclectics in low, sinking typhus and malignant fevers, also in scarlatina; acting powerfully, as they say, on the glandular and nervous systems, as well as the liver. This plant besides its emetic and purgative properties, has therefore stimulant, anti-septic and astringent properties.

FORMS.—*Baptisin*, $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. to $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.; dried alcoholic extract of the bark of the root, 1 to 4 grs; decoction of the bark (boil 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in two pints of water to one pint;) dose $\frac{3}{4}$ ss every 1, 2, or 3 hours as needed.

Indigofera Tinctoria, Indigo plant.—Mostly native to Africa and India; two species are indigenous to North America, I. Carolinianæ, I. *Leptoleptola*. This plant furnishes the true indigo.

MEDICAL USES.—The same as those of the *Baptisia Tinctoria*.

Robinia, Pseudo-Acacia.—Locust tree. The bark and leaves. Three species of locust are indigenous to North America, all possess the same properties. An oil is obtained from the seeds. The wood is hard and durable.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—Tonic, emetic, purgative acro-narcotic; flowers form a good anti-spasmodic syrup; powdered leaves emetic, in 20 to 30 gr. doses; a decoction of the bark,

purgative, in $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ doses. *Asparagin* is said to have been obtained from the root of this tree. (*Chem. Gazette*, Aug. 1855.)

Tephrosia Virginiana, Goats Rue.—The root.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—Cathartic, tonic, vermifuge, slightly laxative, used chiefly as an alterative in chronic cutaneous, and syphilitic affections, as an anthelmintic it has been compared to *Spigelia*. Used chiefly in decoction.

Glycyrrhiza, *Lepidota*. (Nutt.) *Glutinosa*, (Nutt.) The root. Two species of *Glycyrrhiza* are indigenous to North America, both discovered by Prof. NUTTALL at the West, chiefly native of the South of Europe, Tartary and the Levant.

COMPOSITION.—*Glycyrrhizin*, resin, *asparagin*, starch, sugar, oil, albumen, salts, &c.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—Demulcent, emollient, nutritive; used in inflammatory affections of the mucous membranes, especially of the respiratory organs, either alone or combined with mucilaginous substances, also to cover the unpleasant taste of other drugs, and give the proper consistence to pills, &c.

Astragalus.—Forty species of this genus are native to North America, mostly found in the Western parts of the Continent. Most of the spinous species yield an exudation, which goes under the name of *Gum Tragacanth*. They are small shrubs with numerous branches covered with imbricated scales, and beset with spines.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES, &c.—Emollient, demulcent, nutritive, used chiefly as a vehicle for the administration of other medicines, and making pills and confectionery, &c.

Cassia Marilandica.—Six species of *Cassia* are native to North America, of which the above is chiefly used in medicine. The genus consists of trees, shrubs and herbs; and found in most parts of the world; the *C. Fistula* of the W. Indies, which yields the purging *Copia*, being one of the best known.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES, &c.—Actively cathartic, if collected after the seeds have ripened: if before, inferior to the imported varieties. Particular attention necessary to be paid to the time of gathering

Cassia.—Three species of *Cassia* are indigenous to North

America. None of them employed in medicine, most probably all of them yield a gum which might be found useful for medicinal purposes.

ORDER XXIX. POLYGALACEÆ, Milk-wort tribe. Twenty-eight genera and 40 species are native to North America mostly belonging to *Polygala*.

Polygala.—PROPERTIES.—A milky juice, of a bitter taste prevades the entire order; which is expectorant, alterative, tonic, stimulant, diuretic, diaphoretic, emetic, purgative and emmenagogue.

P. Senega, *Seneca Snake Root*.—All the above properties belong to this plant.

COMPOSITION.—Volatile oil, an acrid resin, bitter extractive, tannic acid, polygalic acid, pectic acid, *Senegin*. This is the active principle, is the same probably, as the *Polygalin*. It is a fatal and acrid poison to dogs, in doses of 6 or 8 grains.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Very various, emetic, stimulant, expectorant, sudorific, diuretic, emmenagogue, purgative, chiefly used as a stimulating expectorant, in form of syrup.

FORMS.—The active ingredient in "Cox's Hive-syrup." Is not adapted to inflammatory cases except in combination with antimony as in the above preparation.

Polygala Rubella, Bitter *Polygala*.—The root. A bitter principle is the active ingredient.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—A very pure bitter tonic, also stimulant, laxative, and sudorific.

FORM.—Decoction, 2 3 to a quart of water boiled to one pint. Dose, 1 an 3; fluid extract 1 3; powder 3j.

The *P. Alba*, resembles the *P. Senega* in its properties, some of the other 22 species are also actively medicinal.

ORDER XXX. LYTHRACEÆ.

Lythrum Salicaria.—Loose Strife.

The North American genera belonging to this family are the following: *Hypodrichia*, *Ammonia*, *Lythrum*, *Decodon*, *Cuphea*; none are endowed with known medical properties but the *Lythrum*.

This is widely dispensed; is inodorous, demulcent, astringent, owing to tannic acid; formerly much celebrated as a remedy in diarrhea, leucorrhea, chronic gonorrhea, gleet, &c. There are five North American species, all endowed with the same properties. In Mexico it is much used in syphilis and is regarded as a powerful diuretic and diaphoretic. It is also used for dyeing a reddish yellow color. As an astringent demulcent, it is adapted to various mucous fluxes, and passive hemorrhages; used internally and locally.

FORMS.—Infusion, decoction, as a wash, &c.

THE EFFECT OF SCARLATINA POISON UPON THE KIDNEYS, THE CHANGES INDUCED, ITS EFFECTS, AND BEST METHOD OF TREATMENT.

BY M. HAGAN, M. D., ST. PAUL.

The kidneys, so to speak, are the principal scavengers of the body, and they not only remove the natural excrementitious substances, but through their functions the poisons, whether introduced or generated in the system, are mainly eliminated and expelled. And it is probably in the effort of the kidney to eliminate the poison of scarlatina from the blood that it becomes diseased itself. The debris excreted by the kidney in this disease is charged with a peculiar virus that is more or less irritating to the organ. The injury to the kidney ranges from slight irritation to absolute inflammation, depending on the quantity and quality of the poison in the blood.

Careful observation, I think, will demonstrate that scarlatinal poison expends its force as often in the kidney as on the skin or mucous membrane of the pharynx. When it thoroughly explodes on the skin and throat we have less renal lesion, and conversely, the lighter the attack on the skin and throat, the more damage is done to the kidneys. In my practice there occurred two cases of latent scarlatina the past winter, in which I could only correctly diagnose the nature of the disease on the appearance of dropsy, its characteristic sequelæ—there being no rash and but slight sore throat, with mild fever. These cases occurred in families where the balance of the children had the usual rash, and the catarrhal angina.

There is a prevalent notion in the profession, as well as among the laity, that dropsy following scarlet fever is the result of cold or neglect; and many an unhappy mother who has lost her child from this disease, reproaches herself for years for having changed its linen too soon, or imprudently opened a door, and thus brought about the death of her child. Now it is possible that chilling of the skin during scarlet fever may favor inflammation of the kidneys or may actually produce it, but it is certainly not the cause in the majority of cases.

Symptoms.—In congestion, hyperæmia or inflammation of the kidneys, whether produced by the poison of scarlatina, cholera, malarial poison, or from a common cold, we have the same symptoms. Usually chilliness followed by feverish re-action, tenderness over the region of the kidneys, restlessness, and often vomiting. In the stage of congestion we often have the simultaneous appearance in the urine of blood and albumen. The appearance of albumen alone, without a trace of blood, almost excludes the idea of simple engorgement, and indicates the existence of inflammation of the kidneys. When acute inflammation sets in there is a frequent desire to pass urine, which is scanty, of a dark smoky color, and on being tested by heat and nitric acid; is found usually to be highly albuminous. Examined microscopically it is seen to contain masses of coagulated fibrin, epithelial casts, and occasionally blood-corpuscles. Dropsy is a common but not invariable symptom of this form of renal affection, and its extent is just in proportion to the failure of the kidneys to perform their functions. The face first becomes puffy, followed by general swelling of the areolar tissue throughout the body, and often by effusion of fluid into one or more of the serous cavities. When the progress of the disease is favorable, the coagula, which blocks up the uriniferous tubes, are washed away, the urine becomes freer and more abundant, and the albumen diminishes.

Treatment.—Seeking to cure this form of kidney affection, we have to remember two important facts, first, that there has been a morbid condition of the blood which has excited disease in the kidney, then as a secondary consequence of the renal disease we have the blood further contaminated by retention in it of urea, and other excrementitious matters.

Our aim therefore in the treatment should be to rest the kidney, and eliminate the poisons from the blood by means of the other excretory organs. To carry this treatment into practice, the patient should rest in bed or in a moderately warm room, and the skin and bowels should

be encouraged to act freely. Diaphoretic medicines should be administered together or alternated with saline purgatives. Early in the disease a sinapism, or some mild counter-irritant, should be applied over the region of the kidneys. When the urine is scanty and highly albuminous I think cupping or leeching on the loins should not be neglected. If excessive dropsy threatens to destroy life, hydragogue cathartics should be temporarily resorted to; but their prolonged use in a disease with such marked anæmic tendencies, would be to say the least, ill-advised. After the force of the disease is spent, tonics are indicated, and here the muriated tincture of iron, on account of its combined diuretic and tonic properties, is most valuable. Diuretics, if administered at all in this disease, I think, should only be given during convalescence. Calomel, and the so-called anti-phlogistic remedies, would probably do more harm than good. Pure water is not objectionable in any stage of the disease, and may even assist in washing away the obstructing coagula from the kidneys and thereby shorten the disease.—*Northwestern Medical and Surgical Journal*, May, 1871.

Monthly Summary


—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

ELIMINATION OF NITROGEN FROM THE HUMAN BODY.—In his course of Croonian lectures at the Royal College of Physicians, London, Dr. Parks took the above subject for his text, and treated it in a style both polished and elaborate. As no manifestation of life is possible without nitrogen, and as it is continually entering and leaving the body, into what combinations does it enter? what duty does it exercise in the human economy? Dr. Parks asks, and proceeds to answer these and other points very fully; and again enquires, Are ammonical compounds given off from the lungs in any disease? Ammonia is found in the breath in disease of the mouth or fauces, and in morbid conditions of the stomach; but in all these cases it arises from decomposing substances, and not from the lungs. Frerichs found carbonate of ammonia exhaled by the lungs in uræmic subjects, and considered that this ammonia was produced by the decomposition of the urea; but it has been pointed out that there may be uræmia without any ammonia in the breath. In enteric fever the expired air is generally free from ammonia. In exan-

thematic fever it is rarely present in the breath, and when found can be traced to the decomposing substances on the tongue and gums. Reuling did not find ammonia in the expired air of 130 cases of diseases of all kinds examined by him. In experiments on five healthy young men fed on mixed diet, Dr. Parkes found that the percentage of nitrogen eliminated in the fæces during twenty-four hours varied only from 1 to 1.332. The amount of nitrogen excreted by the fæces in twenty-four hours has been found to reach from 270 to 302 grains, but varies according to the quantity of nitrogenous food consumed, and if the food consists chiefly of fat and starchy matters, may fall to 6 or 7 grains. With regard to the relation between the quantity of nitrogen in the fæces and in the urine, Dr. Parks considers there is a comparative consistency in the results obtained. In some diseased conditions, food may be ejected undigested. Here the ratio would be altered, and in diarrhœa there is a discharge from the intestines of albuminoid substances. With regard to the amount of nitrogen eliminated by fæces, and urine respectively the comparison may become of practical importance.—*Medical World*, July, 1871.

THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF CHLORIDE OF AMMONIUM.—Dr. William Cholmeley states (*Transact. St. Andrews Med. Grad. Association*,) that during the last fifteen years he has been in the habit of employing this medicine in cases in which he deemed it appropriate, and among them are: 1. Some forms of neuralgia of the fifth pair, especially those occurring in women beyond twenty years of age, whose strength has been over-strained by rapid child-bearing, prolonged suckling, anxiety, want or overwork. In doses of fifteen to twenty grains, given three times a day, the pain which is usually of a dull, aching character and intermittent, is quickly relieved, and ferruginous tonics may then be prescribed. 2. In some cases of more genuine tic-doloureux, and in hemicrania, it is invaluable. 3. Nervous headache, such as occurs in some patients after any violent emotion or strain of the nervous system, is readily amenable to the same doses mingled with chloric ether. 4. It is serviceable also in cases of myalgia, such as affects those whose work requires long maintenance of one position. 5. In sciatica, given in the same doses, in every four or six hours. 6. In lumbago. 7. In the painful sequels of rheumatic fever, and states analogous to this affecting men who are overworked. 8. Dr. Cholmely considers it finally to have a powerful emmenagogue influence in cases of amenorrhœa occurring in delicate and nervous girls and women



especially when this has occurred after exposure to cold and wet. In such cases it may be advantageously combined with the perchloride of iron. It is also beneficial in cases of dysmenorrhœa occurring in highly nervous or rheumatic patients, and in the various ailments that accompany the change of life in women.—*American Practitioner*.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

ARREST OF VARIOLA BY QUININE has been spoken of in a recent note addressed by ex-Professor Coze, of Strasburg, to Dr. Lacour, of Lyons (*Presse Belge*), in which he claims to have derived excellent results from its use during the present epidemic in cutting short this disease. As soon as an individual experiences the precursory symptoms of variola (such as headache, soreness of the limbs, cervical and lumbar pain, etc.), he should be confined to the bed, and quinine should be given him every half hour until three or four doses of four grains each have been taken. On the following day, if the symptom continue, the same treatment should be followed, and almost always the disease will abate, or, if the eruption does appear, it will be extremely discrete. The diet of the patient should meanwhile, continue as usual. Dr. Coze states that he was led to try the remedy from a knowledge of its marked effects in the relief of head-ache depending upon over-exertion of the mental faculties, and its influence upon *ramollissement* of the brain when administered during its early stages. He recommends also the use of quinine as a gargle during the progress of variola.—*Med. Record*, July, 1871.

TREATMENT OF PERTUSSIS.—Dr. John J. Caldwell, of Brooklyn, contributes to the *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, the description of a method of treating whooping-cough by the application of atomized fluids to the air passages, in accordance with the theory of Niemeyer, that the disease is a catarrh of the respiratory mucous membrane, attended with intense hyperæsthesia. The result of this treatment, in his own practice, has been that the whooping inspirations have ceased within a week, and the catarrhal inflammation has rapidly subsided.

He recommends the following mixture:

R.	Ext. Belladonnæ fl.....	gtt. v. ad x.
	Potassæ Bromidi.....	℥ j.
	Ammoniæ Bromidi.....	℥ ij.
	Aquæ destill.....	℥ ij.

M. Ft. solutio.

Of this about a tablespoonful is to be applied once daily.—*Medical Record*, July, 1871.

THE SULPHITES AND HYPOSULPHITES OF SODA OR MAGNESIA.—Dr. RONZANI (*Annali di Medicina*, Nov. 1870.) gave these salts, proposed by Polli as the most trustworthy antiseptics, a fair trial in malarious intermittents, and found them to answer remarkably well. He administered the sulphite of magnesia in doses varying from 30 to 60 grains, three or four times a day. Out of one hundred and twenty patients suffering from marsh fever, two-thirds were free from attacks in a very short time; the remaining third had quinia and other drugs besides the sulphites. Of course Polli and the numerous Italian physicians who give the sulphites, believe in the fermentative nature of the poison of malaria. Dr. Ronzani, in his article, makes judicious remarks as to the action of the toxic agent. He used hyposulphite of lime especially to treat the ague-cake, giving ninety grains a day at the beginning, and increasing the dose by fifteen grains every second day for a fortnight. In obstinate cases, blisters over the enlarged spleen, and quinia, iron, and rhubarb internally. The author dwells especially on the low price of the sulphites. We do not suffer much in this country from marsh fever; but we have to contend against many diseases the origin of which is poisoned blood. It would be of advantage to give these sulphites and hyposulphites a fair trial, taking care that the salts are pure, and have not run into sulphates.—*Lancet*.—*Medical News and Library*, March, 1871.

A NEW MODE OF ADMINISTERING COPAIBA.—The *Lancet* for April 29th ult. contains some remarks by Mr. Berkley Hill on the treatment of gonorrhœa, in which he recommends a form in which this remedy can be taken very easily. It resembles a jelly, is not repulsive to the taste, and if a piece the size of a hazel-nut be rolled in wafer paper, it can be swallowed without being tasted at all. The after-effects, of derangement of the digestive organs, he thinks to be rather less from this than from most other forms of administering the remedy.

Take of thick copaiva, eight ounces; powdered sugar, four ounces; honey (not crystallized), four ounces; distilled water five drachms; oil of peppermint, one drachm; roseine (one of the aniline pigments), one-tenth of a grain dissolved in twenty minims of water. Put the honey, sugar, copaiva and water into an evaporating dish, keeping it well stirred. Heat the mixture gently till it boils, and continue the agitation and ebullition about five minutes.

In the first part of the operation, two distinct strata are formed; the upper the copaiva, the lower the honey, etc. As the water is

evaporated, numerous bubbles of steam are given off, just as the whole becomes a homogeneous jelly. When it has partly cooled, stir in the roseine and the oil of peppermint. When well made, it should resemble raspberry jelly. Should this very minute quantity of roseine be objected to, an ammoniacal solution of carmine gives a very good color. *Medical Record*, July, 1871.

COCOA AND CONDENSED MILK.—The English Condensed Milk Company (Lion Brand) have introduced into use a combination of cocoa and condensed milk, which is, in its way, perfect. A teaspoonful dissolved in a small cup of boiling water, makes on the spot a cup of excellent, pure, and delicious cocoa, or chocolate, as you may please to call it, which requires neither further sugar nor milk. Made of pure cocoa and condensed milk, with an adequate addition of sugar, and prepared in small tins which can be kept for any length of time, it recommends itself for a great number of useful purposes, which immediately suggest themselves—in the sick-room, whether for patient, or nurse, or weary doctor; in hospitals, ships, camps; in the study of the night-worker, the bachelor's cupboard, the emigrant's stores, the army canteen, the volunteer camp; for yachting and exploring parties; for fishing, shooting, and picnic excursions, at home and abroad, it will be alike grateful and convenient. It is a very happy idea, well carried out; and will, we expect, achieve an immediate and extended success. —*Brit. Med. Jour.*—*Med. News and Library*, March, 1871.

IODIZED MILK.—From Hoffman's most admirable report on the "Progress of Pharmacy, 1869," we make the subjoined extract, which has a practical value for the physician:—

Iodine and Milk.—It is well known that milk takes up iodine, disguising its taste, smell, and color completely; since iodine is antiseptic, iodized milk keeps for some time. Dr. Hagar calls attention to this fact, and suggests that this, perhaps, is the mildest form of administering iodine. Its therapeutic effect seems to be equal only to about one-fifth of the iodine.

Hagar thinks iodized milk will soon become a favorite form of administering iodine, and suggests the following mode of preparation; one part of iodine dissolved in ten parts of alcohol, admixed with ninety parts of fresh warm cow's milk.—*Med. Press and Circular.*—*Medical News and Library*, March, 1871.

MENINGITIS TREATED BY BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM; RECOVERY.—By Robert Horner, M. D., of Gettysburg, Pa.—On the 19th of last December, I was requested to see a child eighteen months old, of a scrofulous diathesis, with convulsions. The paroxysm was slight, but was followed by a violent attack of pneumonia. After a few days the pneumonia yielded to treatment, and the child seemed to be recovering, when meningeal inflammation set in. There was acute pain in the head, with great restlessness alternating with stupor. The head was hot, the stomach irritable; the stools green. The usual mode of treatment was adopted and continued for some days without making any preceptible impression on the disease. The case was becoming hopeless. The stupor was more intense, verging on coma; the eyes were turned up, the lids half closed, the pupils dilated, pulse less frequent. The child was now put on the bromide of potassium, one-half grain every three hours, and continued for two days without any change in the symptoms, the child, however, not getting any worse. The dose was then increased to two grains, when, after continuing it for twenty-four hours more, there was a marked change for the better. The bromide was continued in the two-grain doses until the head symptoms had all subsided. The recovery was complete.—*Medical News and Library*, March, 1871.

DIGITALIS IN MANIA A POTU.—Dr. Larabee, in a paper read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Louisville, Ky. (*Rich. and Louisville Med. Jour.*), on "Digitalis in Mania a Potu," based his remarks upon its use in twenty cases. It was given in all these cases in doses never less than 3 ss., nor more than 3 j., repeated if necessary. In no case was there any toxic effect of the drug, but in all cases the sleep which followed was sweet and refreshing. In no case, on waking, was the delirium again present. He seldom found it necessary to go beyond the second dose, and in four instances only one dose, 3 ss., was administered.

Dr. Gaillard thought the good effects of digitalis were due to its imparting to the arteries and arterioles the same tonic effect which it imparted to the heart—removing the passive congestion of the capillaries.—*Medical Record*, July, 1871.

QUININE IN PNEUMONIA.—Dr. A. J. Terrell, of Henrico County, Va. (*Virginia Clinical Record*), is in the habit of treating pneumonia with large doses of quinine, and says that he has seen as much benefit (in a

curative way) from this plan of treatment as from any medicine in any disease. It shortens the attack, and the earlier it is resorted to the better. He regards quinine as a great equalizer of the circulation, and acting upon the nerves which control the circulation, it is necessarily anti-congestive. Some physicians, he remarks, admit its beneficial effects in typhoid pneumonia, or when there is a remittent tendency, or malarial complication in any form; but he makes no discrimination, giving it in all cases, in large doses, for its sedative and anti-congestive powers. For the diarrhoea which sometimes supervenes in the progress of an attack of pneumonia he has found nothing better than a few grains of tannin, in combination with the quinine, for arresting it.—*Med. Record*, July, 1871.

DIAPHORESIS IN SCARLATINAL DROPSY.—The *Lancet* reports, under the care of Dr. Garrod, "two cases of scarlatinal dropsy, which had been successfully treated by hot baths and packing. The patients were first placed in a hot bath, and on leaving it they were, while still wet, enveloped in a hot blanket, and laid in bed beneath one or more other hot blankets, so as to maintain, for a time, a profuse perspiration. The sweating was at first made to last about a couple of hours, but, as the dropsy disappeared, the duration of the process was gradually reduced to half an hour. When all puffiness had disappeared, a treatment by small doses of sulphate of iron was substituted until all trace of albumen in the urine was lost."—*Medical World*, July, 1871.

A NEW IODINE PAINT.—Dr. J. Warring-Curran recommends (*Med. Press and Circ.*, Aug. 3, 1870,) the following paint as an excellent application in cases of glandular enlargements and scrofulous diseases, wherein iodine is called into requisition. Rub down half an ounce of iodine and a like quantity of iodide of ammonium in a Wedgewood mortar, and gradually dissolve it in twenty ounces of rectified spirit; to this add four ounces of glycerine, shaking well the solution. Iodide of ammonium, the author thinks, is a more powerful absorbent than iodide of potassium.—*Med. News and Library*, March, 1871.

BELLADONNA IN TONSILITIS.—A correspondent of the *Lancet* writes, "In reference to the treatment of acute tonsillitis by belladonna, that he has been in the habit of treating this disease by the administration of two-drop doses of the tincture of belladonna every two hours, with the effect of causing a subsidence of the inflammatory phenomena in from 12 to 24 hours."—*Medical World*, July, 1871.

Editorial.

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL,

Dublin, Ireland, July 1, 1871.

A VISIT TO LONDON.

The visitor to London, if a Medical man, must needs do double duty in sight-seeing. The many places of historic interest, that even the bare mention of London calls to mind, whether one be in the great metropolis or thousands of miles away, must of course be visited and, in addition to these are the various hospitals where are to be found the living Masters of English Medicine and Surgery, and these must be seen, or there will afterwards be an uncomfortable pricking of the conscience. Too few of our countrymen of late years duly avail themselves of the clinical advantages of London, Edinburgh and Dublin. The tide of travel setting towards Berlin and Vienna either altogether sweeps past the British Islands or barely touches the shore and is gone.

The chief reason for the present neglect of the London hospitals may perhaps be the inconvenience of getting to them, scattered, as they are, all over the city, and the fact that in consequence of the clinical hours being the same in each, only a single one can be visited in any one day. But in one respect certainly London is better than either any French or German city as a place of study to the majority of Americans, especially those having only a few months to spend abroad. There is no new language to be learned, and whatever may be said in the lecture-room or at the bedside can be well understood from the very first hour. He who is desirous of pursuing any clinical line of study can find abundant opportunities of doing so, be the specialty what it may; here are the hospitals and here the masters. The student of ophthalmology may any morning see a crowd of out patients at the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital and have the opportunity of witnessing operations by Bowman, Critchett, Lortberg, Wells and Lawson. Sir Henry Thompson and the Coulsens will clinically and didactically instruct in the diseases of the genito-urinary organs. There are "Stone and Stricture" Hospitals, "Lock" Hospitals, "Orthopædic" Hospitals, Hospitals for "Diseases of the Chest," "Diseases of the Rectum" and "Diseases of the Skin." At the "Samaritan and London Home" he who is interested in the "Surgical Diseases of Women" will see and hear Spencer Wells and Baker Brown. Here are "Guy's," "St. Bartholemew's," "St. George's," "St. Thomas'" and the "London." The lover of Surgery will here find Sir William Ferguson, Erichsen,

Holmes, Bryant, Hutchison, Paget, and a host of others. In general medicine there are Watson, Jenner, Marchisen, Fuller, Tanner, and a dozen more whose names are household words to every American student. Here are Grailly, Hewitt, Greenhalgh and Cooper Foster, and at any one of the large hospitals the indoor and out-door clinics will give large opportunities for studying uterine diseases. Practical midwifery can be better learned at Edinburgh, and vastly better at the "Rotunda" and "Coombe" in Dublin.

In hospital architecture much may be found to interest and instruct, in the new ward of "Guy's" and the new "St. Thomas." The latter, opened only a few days ago, is a magnificent pile of buildings on the south bank of the Thames, immediately opposite the Houses of Parliament. Every department of science that could in any way, be brought to bear in securing comfort and a low death-rate, has been called into requisition, and there seems to be no reason existing why in the immediate future, St. Thomas' may not be of vast service not only to the London poor but to the medical profession of the world.

While the student in London is daily cultivating professionally, mind, eye and hand, he will have ample time to see the "sights" that are "done" by every visitor. Far above every other building in the city, the dome of St. Paul's swells heavenward, and from just beneath the ball and cross will be had if the day is clear, a magnificent bird-eye view of miles of streets and acres of house-tops. In its crypt lie the ashes of Nelson and Wellington, men whom England never tires of honoring. When the coffin of the hero of Waterloo was resting on the Sarcophagus that encloses the ashes of the winner of the Nile and Trafalgar, the Poet Laureate wrote:

"Who is he that troubleth me,
As truly great is he
By land, as thou by sea."

A couple of miles away is Westminster Abbey enshrining the great and good of ten centuries of the Nation's life-time, kings and warriors, poets and sculptors, writers and workers, there they lie, all the way along from Edward the confessor to Herschel the younger. Were every other record of England's place and power destroyed save the grey old Abbey and the names of the "City" streets, it would not require the genius of a Champollion, a Bunsen or a Rawlinson to re-construct a history of the nation that would tell to future generations that once on the banks of the Thames was the Capital of a people rich and learned and mighty. A half-hour's walk will take us from the Abbey to the

British Museum and give us a passing glance at the Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, the Horse-Guards, Charing Cross, St. James' and Hyde Parks, the Clubs and Regent Street.

On Trafalgar Square is the Nelson Column and the National Gallery, the Sailors' monument guarded by an inner line of grand lions flanked by Napier and Havelock and watched over at a distance by the "Lion of Northumberland," the gallery protecting the priceless works of art-masters from Michael Angelo to Turner. Near where now stands in front of the square, the long-buried statue of King Charles, was in by-gone days the last built and fairest of the Eleanor Crosses, those beautiful Gothic tributes to a loved wife's memory, and only a few rods away the reproduced "Charing Cross" mutely but eloquently tells of Edward's affection and mediæval art. After St. Paul, Westminster Abbey and the British Museum, the four most interesting places to the stranger are the Tower, the House of Parliament, the Crystal Palace, and the International Exhibition at Kensington.

While Buckingham Palace in the West is the present home of royalty, the Tower in the East sheltered many a crowned head and was the living tomb of many a brave and fair one. The one is full of memories of Victoria and Albert; in the other Anne Boleyn danced with bluff Harry her Lord, and led her dance with death because of that same Lord. In the gardens of the one Victoria's children sported but a little while ago; in the dark chamber of the other the fair princes were smothered, and under the stair-case their bodies rested for generations till royalty removed them to a royal tomb. Aside from its historical associations and the treasures deposited there, the Tower disappoints the visitor. True there are the Traitor's Gate, Raleigh's room, the stair-case beneath which were found the bodies of the young Princes, and the execution place, where fair women and brave men lost their heads, but the crowded city pushes up against the walls, and the former abode of royalty is now only a barrack and an arsenal. The House of Parliament while magnificent in its length and elegance, in its elaborate exterior seems "squatty" and neither as a whole nor in House of Lords and House of Commons impresses one as strongly and favorably as does our own Capital at Washington with its Halls for the Senate and the "House." But we have not in Washington a Westminster Hall under the old oak roof of which still linger echoes of the eloquence of Burke, Pitt and Sheridan and where we can yet catch shadowy glimpses of Cromwell and the Regicides, of Stafford and his master, of the Bishops and Warren Hastings.

At the Crystal Palace, a day can be very pleasantly spent and profitably too, if one can not have the opportunity of visiting the great galleries on the Continent and seeing the originals of the famous statues, whose casts are here ranged on either hand. From the top of either of the towers of the Palace a fine view of the country for miles around is had, a view well repaying for the difficulty of ascending the almost numberless steps of the winding stair-case. The chief attraction at the Kensington Exhibition, is the picture gallery, where are to be seen some fine modern paintings of the French, Belgian and English Schools. But he who would see London must devote not days but weeks, and if time fails, he must be content with merely a passing glance at a thousand and one places and things which would well repay careful examination.

Dingy and smoky is the city of fogs and rains and East winds, but with it all, it is London, the home of science, art and culture; where the lover of the past and worker of to-day may find much to interest and instruct, where savant and pupil impart and receive, each in turn deriving strength from the gathered treasures of earth, air and sea, stored up in libraries, museums and gardens. The American student loses much who thoughtlessly rushes past or through the great city of "Notherland," and while as a medical man, he duly appreciates the value of Berlin, Vienna and Paris, let him not forget how much of the knowledge he puts in daily use, he owes to the city of Hunter, Cooper, of Jepner and Watson.

Rotunda Lying-in Hospital of Dublin, Ireland.

This Institution is the largest and oldest chartered school of midwifery, not only in Great Britain, but with one or two exceptions in the world, and has a celebrity wherever the art and science of midwifery are cultivated. Its recognized importance as a school for the practical study of obstetrics, every complication of parturition, every obstetric operation, and of treating the protean maladies of women and children, may be measured by the number of students it has attracted since its foundation to the present time. Nearly six thousand pupils have here been instructed in the combatment of the diseases and accidents which fall within the province of the obstetric practitioner. It was here that our lamented Elliot obtained the clinical experience on which was reared the temple of his fame, the story of which a single continent has not circumscribed.

The Rotunda Hospital is so closely associated with progress in

obstetric science, that a brief allusion to its origin, office and management may not be out of place. It was established in 1745, the first Lying-in Hospital in the British Dominion, founded by the philanthropy of Surgeon Bartholemew Nosse, and incorporated by Royal Charter, A. D., 1757,—for the relief of the poor lying-in women of Dublin. Latterly the benefits of the Institution have been extended to every poor woman in her hour of labour. The sole condition being that she who applies for admission stands in need of its succor. It is supported by endowment funds, a Government grant of £ 700 a year, annual subscriptions, charitable donations, festivals, &c., from which the total net revenue of the Hospital is £ 2,500, and for this sum an average of about 1,300 intern. labour patients, and 190 chronic patients, 130 extern. labour patients, and 3,300 extern. chronic patients are annually treated in the various departments.

The total number of deliveries from the opening of Hospital to the 1st of January, 1870, amounts to the vast number, 1,192,201.

The following table shows the results of the practice from the time of its foundation up to January, 1869 :

Number of Patients admitted.....	203,733.
Received into the chronic wards, opened in 1836	4,283.
Delivered in the Hospital.....	190,885.
Number of Children Born.....	194,127.
" " Males.....	100,602.
" " Females.....	99,190.
Women having twins and more.....	2,976.
Children died.....	6,905.
" Still-born.....	10,765.
Women died.....	2,627.

In order to give a detailed description of the interior arrangements of the Hospital, we add the following account of the place as given by Dr. Johnson, the present distinguished Master.

"The building having a north and south aspect, stands in an open space, its front to the south receding eighty feet from the street, which latter is at least sixty feet wide, thus being distant from any house fully 140 feet. It has the large space of Rutland Square at its rear, without shrub or tree to interfere in any way, with the circulation of air. A wide corridor on each floor runs from east to west, the whole length of the building, in the direction of the prevailing winds, with large windows at either end, having the upper part of them always open so as to admit a thorough draught of air. Off these corridors, at either side, are the wards, averaging in size 34 by 24 feet, and 13 feet high ;

there are four wards on each corridor, two at either end, each pair being separated widely apart, by the Chapel on the south and on the north by a broad stair-case (with a large window which is constantly open,) thus isolating the wards as much almost as if they were separate buildings. Off these wards are two smaller rooms equally well ventilated, for either private patients, or where, should a dangerous case occur, she can be removed, and thus separate her from the others.

"The wards are ventilated by circular openings next the ceiling opposite the fire-place; there are large elliptical windows, at the same height in the wall, opening on the corridor, opposite the windows, of which three are in each ward on the north side, and two in those facing the south; besides these there are ventilators running up to and opening on the roof. The amount of cubic space for each individual, calculating at five in each ward, would be at least 2000 feet."

There are twelve wards, nine of which are appointed to labour patients, whilst in the rest is open an admirable field for the study of diseases of women.

BROMO CHLORALUM.

We publish the comprehensive letter from Prof. Charles A. Lee, concerning the medical uses and purposes of this excellent agent. We are pleased to say that all the reports we have of its use, furnish no exception to the relief expected when properly applied, and will here remark that in the sick room it should be used in all chamber utensils, and also on cloths suspended in the room. In cases of cancer, fever sores, fetid ulcers, &c., besides deodorizing the room in the same manner it will be found well to surround the ordinary dressing with a cloth dampened with it.

Dr. Dickinson's trial was in a very aggravated case, with the happiest results, and that of Dr. McMaken in a case which had hitherto defied the usual remedies, and happily illustrates its almost magical power, by diffusion upon a cloth or towel suspended in a room, in absorbing noxious gases.

Peekskill, August 10th, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

Gentlemen,—The package of *Bromo Chloralum* which you favored me with some time ago, has been carefully used by myself and some of my medical friends with the following results:

1. *As a certain, perfect and prompt deodorizer* it is far superior to any article of the kind we have ever employed, not excepting carbolic acid. The most noisome and disagreeable odors are instantly destroyed by its application; while itself leaves no unpleasant smell behind. I find that a solution, made by adding one part to 20 of water, placed in sinks, water-closets, sewers, cesspools, &c., immediately removes all unpleasant smell.

2. *As a disinfectant* I have used it successfully in *typhoid fever* and other infectious diseases. I have no doubt it is destined to take the precedence of chloride of lime, zinc, soda, carbolic acid, the poisonous mineral salts, and all other agents hitherto introduced for this purpose. The experience of my medical friends, also, coincides with my own on this point.—One great advantage it possesses over all other agents I have ever used is, that its inhalation causes no feeling of irritation in the air passages and lungs. It is not only safe and non-poisonous, but absolutely free from all disagreeable effects whatever.

3. *As a general deodorizer and disinfectant* for all manufactories where the decomposing animal or vegetable materials are used, it must prove invaluable,—also as a *Sanitary agent* for Boards of Health, in our large towns and cities, who will, I believe, find it both more efficient as well as more economical than most other articles hitherto employed.

4. *For Hospital Use*, I think it must prove very useful for various purposes, among others as a wash for offensive sores and ulcers, sloughing gangrene,—cancers and offensive discharges of all kinds; also for disinfecting clothes and bed-clothing, bedding, and for general deodorant and disinfecting purposes.

5. Regarding then the *Bromo Chloralum* as altogether the most valuable article of the kind hitherto introduced into practical medicine and hygiene. I most cheerfully and confidently recommend its use to the profession and the public.

CHAS. A. LEE, M. D.

Professor of Hygiene and Materia Medica.

STEPHENTOWN, N. Y., August 2, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

I was called July 4th, to attend a lady who had been thrown from her carriage against a post, producing a severe concussion of the brain and a double fracture of the femur. My patient remained in an insensible condition the following ten days, during which time the evacuations were necessarily involuntary, and made her bed and room very offensive, in spite of the precautions of her attendants. I directed

the use of your Bromo Chloralum with one part to ten of water. Wet thoroughly cloths with it and place them around the bed and person, to receive the evacuations, and also to wash the parts with it, after the removal of the cloths. To the utter astonishment of myself and all connected with the case, all offensive odors were neutralized and nothing but pure atmospheric air was in the least perceptible in the room. I have also used the Bromo Chloralum in Child-bed sickness to my great relief from all the offensive odors which usually attend such cases.

I have also caused it to be used in the chamber utensils of the same strength, with the effect of destroying all noxious odors, usually arising therefrom. Every physician who will use this article, will appreciate its value in his exemption from the disagreeable odors and foul air he is almost daily compelled to breathe in his practice.

Yours,

G. H. DICKINSON, M. D.

On a late visit to Rutland, Vt., in company with Dr. Pierce, at the request of the attending physician, Dr. Pond, I used the article in a small and imperfectly ventilated room occupied by a patient who has suffered with a cancer for three years past, his chin and lower lip being one running ulcer, the odor of which was so fetid and disagreeable that but few could remain in his room for any length of time, even after using the ordinary disinfectants. I wet a cloth of about four feet square with a dilution of one part to six of water, which was suspended near his bed; all foul odors were almost instantaneously removed, rendering the air odorless. Upon again visiting the room after an absence of fifteen minutes no trace whatever of the disagreeable smell could be perceived, greatly to the surprise of every one present, as well as the comfort of the patient and his family.

J. A. McMAKEN, *Chemist.*

Our acknowledgements are due to H. D. Bennett Esq., Steward of the University of Michigan, for a copy of the Triennial Catalogue of that prosperous Institution.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State.* We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

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Communications.

REMARKS ON WINES AND ALCOHOL.

BY C. A. LEE, M. D.—CONTINUED.

Adulteration of Wines.

The *Catawba* and the *Concord* are our great wine grapes, and stand as yet without a rival, unless it be the *Ives Seedling*, introduced within the last few years, by Dr. KITTRIDGE, of Cincinnati, now of Peekskill, N. Y. The wines made from them are not often, but sometimes adulterated. Great efforts have recently been made to introduce the California wines into the Eastern markets, as substitutes for others imported from Europe, but with only partial success. Some of them seem to be manipulated and adulterated almost as much as foreign wines. For example, the acid wines of Los Angeles and Sonoma, Cal., are fortified by the addition of from 10 to 12 gallons of pure spirits to the pipe, to insure its keeping during transportation through the tropics; and this in addition to the 12 and 14 per cent of alcohol derived through fermentation. But alcohol if required at all, should be added to the "must," or wines which still contain a considerable quantity of grape sugar. If added to the wine itself, the life and

aroma of the article are destroyed, and yet this practice seems to be pursued in regard to nearly all the California wines brought to the Eastern markets. One fact is worthy of notice, and that is, that most foreign grapes introduced into America, and cultivated east of the Rocky Mountains for wine purposes, have proved an entire failure; whereas several from Spain have succeeded very well. At some of the vineries in Los Angeles County, Indians are employed to trample out the grapes, as is the practice in some of the most celebrated wine-districts in Germany; but generally machine-crushers are used—the rollers being so adjusted as to mash the pulp, without breaking the seeds. The general plan is, to part the grapes from their stems by rubbing the clusters over a wire screen or sieve, so coarse that the berries when detached fall through its meshes into the hopper placed over the crusher-rollers.

The light or acid wines of California are in their best state, when three years in cask, and will retrograde if not then bottled. One year in glass, gives them an aroma, which will last for many years, but will not improve by further age. The red wines of Sonoma County, are gradually displacing the French Clarets; but the best California Champagnes are far inferior to the best French wines of the same class. *Linsberger's Sparkling Wine*, is probably far superior to nine tenths of the so-called Champagne imported into the United States. This is a pure wine, the only addition to it, like that of LONGWORTH'S of Cincinnati, being rock candy. Its sparkle is the result solely of fermentation in the bottle. There is no question, that California can produce wines, if carefully made, equal in excellence, to any produced in Europe or any other part of the world. The California brandies are generally, comparatively pure.

Where wines have become too acetous, *litharge* or *lime* is often added; to others, *sugar*; but the greatest fraud consists in the manufacture of spurious wines, containing not a drop of the juice of the grape. *Lead* in wines is easily discovered by testing with *sulphuretted hydrogen*, which throws down a black precipitate. The presence of *lime* may be detected by *oxalate of Ammonia*, which throws down oxalate of lime in considerable quantity. Counterfeit wines are to be detected satisfactorily only through means of their sensible qualities, and by an experienced Connoisseur.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF WINES.

The physiological effects of wines are chiefly due to the alcoholic element contained in them, though these are modified to a considerable extent, by the acids and other constituents. Thus, *gout* is the result of wine, but not of pure spirit-drinking. Something is due also to the salts, acids, sugar, and etherial elements contained in wine, so that its effects are by no means, proportioned to the amount of alcohol contained in it; or identical with those which would be produced by an equal amount of pure spirit and water. Taken in moderate quantities, this fluid stimulates the nervous and muscular systems, and the secreting organs; while it increases the action of the heart and arteries, thus diffusing an agreeable warmth over the body, promoting the muscular power, and exciting the mental faculties. Taken in excess, it produces intoxication, with all its varied phenomena. Wine possesses a *tonic* influence also, which we do not find in pure spirit; owing, doubtless, to the chemical combinations, in which it exists with the other ingredients. Thus, its stimulant effects are more slowly produced, than those of simple alcohol, and are more permanent. Besides the habitual use of spirit is more likely to induce hepatic, renal, and other organic diseases.

Wines differ in regard to the peculiar effects they produce: thus, the sparkling wines most speedily intoxicate, while the dry wines, like the still Catawba, Bordeaux and Sherry, while they are not so exhilarating as the former, are not so apt to disorder the stomach.

DIETETIC USES OF WINE.

It has been said that the habitual dietetic use of the lighter wines can hardly be considered injurious since it is common to all sexes and ages, in the vine-growing countries of Europe. As a general proposition, this statement can only hold true in a qualified sense; it would be far nearer the truth to say, that all alcoholic liquors, taken habitually, are more or less injurious to health; distilled spirits ranking first on the list; then wine, beer and cider.

Chronic Alcoholism may be produced by each of these beverages, taken habitually to excess; and the injurious effects will be proportioned, in each case, to the amount taken. In regard to wines, as MACNISH has stated, those are the safest, which are the weakest in alcohol, possessing the most diuretic properties, and

creating the least head-ache, and fever; as Hock, Burgundy and Claret; White Port, Sherry or Madeira and sweet wines, are apt to produce acidity or other disorder of the stomach. Sound Claret is doubtless the most wholesome wine that is known; but the habitual use of this is, by no means, as favorable to health, as the exclusive use of pure water.

One strong objection to the use of wine, and one not often mentioned by its advocates, is, that it creates and develops an appetite for stronger stimulants; such has been emphatically, the effect of wine-drinking in France; which from being one of the most temperate countries in Europe, has become one of the most intemperate; brandy and spirit-drinking having become almost universal, as shown by the annual *Internal Revenue Reports*. And the same change is gradually going on in the other wine countries of Europe.

We are also told that wines are always diluted with water in proportion to the youth or delicacy of the constitution and are very seldom taken in excess. This does not correspond with our own observations. In European wine countries, they are, it is true, sometimes mixed with water, but they are not unfrequently used to excess in an undiluted state. To the remark, that children and females are better without wine, we would unhesitatingly add, and men too. LIEBIG, after praising the wines of the Rhinegau, as remarkably salubrious, adds that "They are distinguished above all others by producing the minimum of *injurious after-effect." Observation has fully established the fact, that water is the most healthy drink for men as an habitual beverage, and that drinkers of pure water are more healthy and longer lived than drinkers of wine and malt liquors.

THERAPEUTICAL USES OF WINE.

As the primary effect of all distilled and fermented liquors is to stimulate the nervous system and quicken the circulation; in all conditions, therefore, in which the action of these requires to be increased or supported, they may be useful, and in contrary conditions, they will be likely to prove hurtful. Where moderate support, and a tonic influence are required, wine is preferable to distilled spirits of any kind, as it imparts a more healthful and permanent tone to the frame, and is not so apt to be followed by

subsequent collapse. As a pure stimulant, wine is comparatively seldom used in our country, both because it is difficult to procure that which is pure and genuine, and secondly on account of its expensiveness; but when it is employed medicinally, it is generally for the relief of the same essential conditions as distilled spirits though of milder grades. Where the nervous and vital forces are depressed, or exhausted, or the stomach lacks digestive power, wine often exerts a most beneficial effect, and especially, where we find the pulse soft and compressible, the skin cool, and moist, and where there is a feeling of exhaustion and prostration, wine is plainly indicated. Nor do low muttering delirium, sensorial disturbance, a black tongue, and muscular tremors contraindicate it. On the contrary, these *typhoid* symptoms generally demand its use; and given with caution and a due regard to its effects, their phenomena will gradually cease, and give place to a decided improvement in all the functions. Our success however, will depend in a great degree, on their proper management; giving them in proper doses and at suitable intervals. Wine also has its use in the exanthematous affections, as scarlatina, small pox and measles; also in diphtheria, syncope, anæmia, pyæmia, the latter stages of tuberculosis, extensive ulcerations, delirium tremens, copious suppuration, spasmodic affections, tetanus, gangrene of the extremities; after extensive injuries, severe operations, profuse hemorrhages; in atonic gout, idiopathic erysipelas, etc. In all such cases, where the powers of life seem to be failing, wine often produces the best effects. We must be careful to discriminate between *real* and *apparent* prostration. In one form of apoplexy, there is complete muscular and nervous paralysis, which might best be relieved by a copious blood-letting, there are others where it might prove fatal. The pulse will in these cases, aid us materially in forming our diagnosis; if we raise the patient from a horizontal to a sitting posture, and find the pulse growing weaker and more frequent, we may safely administer the stimulant; on the contrary, if we find dryness of the tongue, thirst, restlessness, or a quicker pulse produced by wine, we should discontinue its use. Much, also, may be learned by the feebleness or absence of the impulse and first sound of the heart, as first pointed out by Dr. Stokes, as an indication for the use of wine in typhus fever. The use of wines, and especially of distilled spirits, has been carried to a most

injurious extent in this country, in the treatment of every class of fevers, of late years, especially during the late civil war; the present practice is however, characterized by a more cautious and discriminating employment of them.

ALCOHOL is obtained by the distillation of fermented saccharine fluids, and by the rectification of the product, if it be not of the proper density. Previous to distillation, such fluids are called *fermented liquors*, as wines, cider and malt liquors, etc. The liquids, thus distilled, are called *ardent spirits*; varying, according to the nature of the fluid from which they are prepared, as *brandy, gin, rum, whiskey, &c.*

Rectified Spirit or *Alcohol* (U. S. P.) is obtained from these by re-distillation or *rectification*, as it is called; sp. gr. 0.835; *absolute* or *pure alcohol* is not required for medical or pharmaceutical purposes, although sometimes important as a chemical agent. This may be secured by adding *quicklime* to the fluid before distillation.

Pure Alcohol is colorless, volatile, inflammable, sp. gr. 0.7994. at 60 F.; of a pungent pleasant odor, and a strong spirituous burning taste. Chemically, it is a *hydrated oxide of ethyl*, consisting of 1 equiv. of ethyl, (C₄ H₅.) and one of oxygen, combined with 1 eq. of water.

The U. S. Pharmacopœia recognizes the three following official alcohols, viz: 1 ALCOHOL FORTIUS, *stronger alcohol*, sp. gr. 0.817

2. ALCOHOL, *alcohol*, sp. gr. 0.835. 3. ALCOHOL DILUTUM, *diluted alcohol*, alcohol mixed with an equal measure of distilled water, sp. gr. 0.941, (U. S. P.)

The "*Alcohol Fortius*" is chiefly used in the preparation of ether, collodion, and certain tinctures, and for dissolving castor oil, etc. "*Alcohol*" (sp. gr. .835.) is used for preparing resinous and other tinctures, some extracts and fluid extracts.

"*Alcohol dilutum*" is used for preparing most tinctures, extracts and some fluid extracts.

Nearly all alcohol is obtained at present by distillation from whiskey (*spiritus frumenti*, U. S. P.) which is for the most part, obtained from distilling a fermented infusion of Indian corn, mixed with rye. At the West much of the whiskey is produced by the fermentation and distillation of the refuse from flour or

grist mills. The instrument used for testing the sp. gr. of spirits is called an *Alcoholometer*. There are four proofs recognized by law. *First proof*, 50 per cent. by volume or measure of absolute alcohol and 50 per cent. of water, sp. gr. 936. *Second proof*, has 52½ per cent. alcohol, sp. gr. 931. *Third proof*, 55½ per cent. alcohol, sp. gr. 925. *Fourth proof*, 58 per cent. alcohol, sp. gr. 920.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS.

Alcohol is a universal excitant; exalting all the functions, with a special influence on the brain and nervous system. *Locally*, owing to its attraction for water, and the power of coagulating albumen and fibrine, it causes hardening and shrinking of the tissues, and hence is *hæmostatic*. Injected into veins, it coagulates the blood; applied to the skin or mucous membranes, it causes paleness from contraction of the capillary vessels. Taken internally, alcohol causes a feeling of warmth at the epigastrium, with increased frequency and force of the pulse, warmth at the surface, and a general feeling of invigoration, with exhilaration of spirits. The *remote effects* of alcohol are too well known to need a detailed description; beginning with simple excitement of the vascular and nervous systems, with exaltation of all the mental and bodily functions, they speedily reach the *second degree*, or that stage called *intoxication*, characterized by a disordered condition of the intellectual functions and volition; or, by delirium and inability of regulating the action of the voluntary muscles. If the quantity drank has been excessive, this stage may be succeeded by *coma* or *true apoplexy*, distinguished by slow pulse, dilated pupils, slow, labored respiration, and not unfrequently death.

The physiological effects of alcohol, are not positively known, as they should be, considering the extent to which it is used as a beverage. Böcher's extended experiments led him to believe, 1st. that its use diminishes the excretion both of the solid and fluid constituents of the *urine*; 2nd. that it does not increase the *cutaneous perspiration* to any practical extent; 3d. that it does not augment the *fecal excretion*; 4th. that alcohol diminishes not only the absolute quantity of *carbonic acid exhaled by the lungs*, but also the relative proportion of it in the products of respiration, though it quickens the frequency of the pulmonary movements. In the experimenter's own case, the amount of carbonic acid exhaled by

the lungs under the influence of alcohol, was about 1-5th less than the ordinary quantity, after the alcohol was left off; the pulmonary movements continued quicker than natural, while the carbonic acid exhaled returned to the normal standard, so that there were more products of respiration expired than even in the previous condition, proving that the arrest of excretion was really due to the alcohol employed. Alcohol, therefore, is *not* a supporter of combustion in the body, but arrests the oxidation of carbon.

3. The *excretion of water* by the lungs is not affected to any important extent, by this agent, generally slightly diminished. From these experiments, made in 1849, physiologists have drawn the conclusion, that as alcohol limits the consumption of tissue by metamorphic secretion, it answers to a certain extent, in place of food. But to counter-balance these important apparent advantages of alcohol, Dr. Böcher found by comparing the blood of persons accustomed to drink brandy daily, but not in excess, with that of an abstainer, that as a whole it is deficient in fibrine as compared with albumen, with the red clot more carbonized, and blacker than in perfect health, at the same time, there is an excess of the colorless corpuscles over the number contained in healthy blood. In other words, the blood is less vitalized, in anæmia, and too venous; resembling in fact, that of the portal system; retaining too much of the effete matter, and deficient in *globuline*.

To counter-balance these disadvantages, CHAMBERS and other physiologists, contend that alcohol acts as a prophylactic against the destructive energies of the mind, thus acting as an *accessory* medicine. Believing this opinion to be wholly unsustained by facts, we shall not stop to combat it. As to wines and malt liquors, Dr. B. found the results very similar to those produced by diluted spirits, only in the case of wines, there was a striking diminution in the quantity of *earthy phosphates* in the urine. If any form of alcohol is to be used, as a beverage, which would seem wholly unnecessary in a country where healthy food is so abundant, the cause of temperance would be vastly promoted by the substitution of lighter wines and malt liquors in the place of distilled spirits. One of the most threatening evils of our country, is the vast consumption of whiskey by our laboring population.

LIEBIG assigns alcohol a definite place among *foods* of the combustible kind, and regards it as a heat-forming aliment, capable of replacing the oily, starchy and saccharine materials of alimentation. According to this theory, the union of alcohol with oxygen, within the body, gives rise to the formation of carbonic acid and water, and the generation of heat. The subsequent researches of BOURCHARDAT, SANDRAS and DUCHEK, appeared to elucidate the stages of the chemical process by which the transformation of alcohol into carbonic acid and water was accomplished, and to show that previously to the final change, there is a formation of intermediate compounds, (*aldehyde, acetic acid and oxalic acid*). But the more recent experiments of Dr. E. SMITH, M. M. LALLEMAND, DUROY and PERRIN, go to prove that alcohol is in no sense, a *food*, that it is neither transformed, nor destroyed within the organism, but reappears in a short time eliminated in the excretions of the skin, lungs and kidneys; through which it begins to escape soon after it is swallowed. These experimenters failed to find the immediate compounds, aldehyde, &c., into which it is said to be changed; on the contrary, they state that they found it unchanged everywhere in the body, the blood, tissues, liver, and especially the brain and nervous tissues.

These results in their turn, have been somewhat invalidated by the more recent experiments of ANSTIE, and M. E. BAUDOT, (*Union Medicale*, 1863,) who object to the conclusions of M. LALLEMAND, etc., on the ground that the experiments on which they were founded were defective in two respects, viz: 1st. that the doses given were always *intoxicating* doses, and 2d. that the amount of alcohol actually recovered in any of the experiments, was really very small. It has not been proved, we must therefore hold, that *all* the alcohol taken escapes from the body *unchanged*. By the *chromic acid* test, it may easily be shown, that a comparatively limited amount escapes by the kidneys.

Prof. WOOD maintains, that if the usual amount of food is swallowed, alcohol favors its digestion and conversion into blood, and hence produces a plethoric state; and that this reacts in the stomach, diminishing the desire for food; in consequence less is taken. He also holds that alcohol itself is probably assimilated, that is decomposed in the blood, inasmuch as only a small part of

what is taken escapes from the system. It is evident, that alcohol is not merely oxidized into carbonic acid and water; for in that case, there would be an increase of the excretions of these products by the lungs, which we have seen not to be the case; hence we conclude, that it is either wholly thrown off by the secreting and excreting organs, or possibly converted into one or more of the proximate constituents of the body, through the agency of the vital forces. We see no reason why, in the presence of organized nitrogenous matter, it may not be converted into any one or all of these constituents, and other hydro-carbonaceous matters, especially oil. Thus, it is not very uncommon, to see drunkards living almost exclusively, and in rare cases entirely on distilled spirits, for a considerable time; not only without loss of weight, but with increased obesity. In like manner, vinegar, the vegetable acids, sugar, etc., are digested, and it only requires a slight change to convert alcohol into acetic acid. But even admitting alcohol to be *food*, the evils which it occasions, more than counter-balance any benefits which may accrue from its use.

Prof. BEALE has more recently suggested, that alcohol chemically arrests the vital cell-growth, and has no really *alimentary* properties, and thus may prevent emaciation both in acute and chronic diseases. But we think it a far safer and better rule, not to employ large doses of alcohol as a medicine, in cases where other nutriment can be taken and digested. The convalescence of patients, and their recovery from emaciation, will be sufficiently rapid, where beef-tea and other animal broths can be duly assimilated. The physical theory of Dr. BEALE, that alcohol chemically arrests the vital cell-growth in nervous tissue *by coagulating its albumen*, thus inclosing the "germinal matter" in an impermeable coating, through which no nutriment can penetrate to it from without, seems to us visionary and most improbable. Alcohol in the extremely diluted form in which it reaches the brain, can have no coagulating power.

THE PATHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL.

The diseases produced by alcoholic drinks are extremely numerous and fatal; from its direct action on the *nervous system*, result neuralgic pains; impairment of voluntary muscular power; muscular tremor, want of sleep, hallucinations, vertigo, head-aches,

palsy, apoplexy, insanity, delirium tremens, palpitation of the heart, etc. The stomach, liver, brain and lungs, are the organs on which alcohol expends its chief force, although the kidneys, heart, bowels and arteries are liable to participate. Gastritis, hypertrophy, and fatty degeneration of the kidneys are extremely common among drunkards, and dyspeptic complaints are rarely absent.

It is generally conceded that an intemperate use of alcohol predisposes the system to the attacks of any epidemic or pestilence which may prevail, and fosters the disease when brought on by other causes. In fact, it may in truth be said to predispose the system to every form of acute disease, especially to those of an inflammatory nature, and to those resulting from disordered, or impaired nutrition. It may also be said, that, in many cases, where the predisposition to disease from other causes is slight and easily counteracted, the use of this poison will of itself be sufficient to excite and develop it.

THERAPEUTIC USES OF ALCOHOL.

Alcohol is used as a remedial agent both internally and externally, under the various forms of brandy, rum, gin and whiskey. This agent has recently found a place in the treatment of almost every disease. As alcoholic liquors are not specific curative agents, their use is simply to support the powers of life, and prevent the vital energies from sinking below the point at which the reparative processes are possible. Within these limits only are they safe or indicated. In the recent camp and hospital diseases of the U. S. Army, stimulants of this class, were greatly relied on and extensively used, especially in conjunction with dietetic supporting measures, and frequently no doubt, with much benefit. It is equally true that they were as often abused and productive of great mischief. There are no remedies so liable to be misused, especially by the class of young and inexperienced practitioners, as alcoholic stimulants, and none which require greater caution in their use. In *fevers*, if the prostration continues to increase, in spite of proper support by nutritious aliment of animal broths, stimulants of this sort are usually believed to be necessary, and are generally resorted to; often with the effect of saving life. No definite rules can be laid down in regard to the quantity to be used, or the period or stage of the disease when they are to be

commenced, a careful appreciation of the condition of the patient, with a distinct idea of the objects to be attained by their administration, are the only safe guides to their proper use in any case. Their effects on the brain, pulse, skin and secretions are to be closely watched, for these furnish useful indications as to their increase, diminution or withdrawal.

It is a common opinion, that the use of fermented liquors, especially, has a tendency to counteract the predisposition to *scrofulous* or *tuberculous complaints*. Pathological investigations would seem to confirm this conclusion; yet it is rejected by many. If true, it is entirely contrary to what might have been imagined *a priori*, and would appear to show that a highly carbonated state of the blood protects against tuberculosis. It is very possible that life may be prolonged, in some cases of this disease, by the use of alcoholic liquors, especially those of the *fermented class*; but we believe the benefit is often more apparent than real, and that injury instead of benefit often results from their over employment.

In the debility occurring in the *latter stages* of *inflammatory diseases*, alcoholic stimulants are frequently indicated, especially if suppuration has supervened. In such cases their beneficial influence is strongly marked. In *pyemia* or *purulent infection* they are of decided benefit.

In Gangrenous Affections, and all cases where *noxious matter* is circulating in the blood, as from *dissecting wounds*, and the bites of *poisonous reptiles*, stimulating by alcohol has been found one of the most successful modes of treatment. The same may be said of its use in some *nervous diseases*, as *tetanus*, *delirium tremens*, *trembling palsy*, etc.; also in cases of *delirium from exhaustion*; the debility from *excessive secretion* or *hemorrhage*, *asthenic erysipelas*, *typhoid forms of pneumonia*, *collapse from surgical injuries*, etc., and sometimes in *convalescence* from disease. They are generally indicated in the *acute diseases of intemperate persons*, who require stimulants, in order to sustain the vital forces against the attack. Alcohol also restores the action of the heart and enables the system to bear up against the disorder. The necessary effect is to be maintained by repetition of the dose at suitable intervals.

Alcohol is used externally for various purposes, viz: as a *styptic* to check hemorrhage; which it does by its

coagulating influence on albumen and fibrin, and by its causing contraction of the bleeding vessels. To *harden the cuticle over tender and delicate parts*; as to the nipples before and after delivery to prevent soreness from suckling; to the feet to prevent blistering from walking; to the hips, back, &c., to prevent bed-sores; to the surface of wounds, whether recent, granulating or sloughing, to form a thin layer of coagulated albuminous matter, beneath the protection of which, the tissues may have time to regenerate themselves. Spirit gargles are useful in *tonsillitis*, in checking the inflammation and swelling. Spirit is often used to *form cool evaporating lotions*, and frictions with it prove useful in a great variety of affections.

SOME NEW REMEDIES.

Dr. BENJAMIN W. RICHARDSON reviews a number of new remedies in the *London Practitioner*. His article deserves quoting at length.

I.—ORGANIC BROMIDES.

The success that has attended the administration of some of the inorganic bromides, the potassium bromide especially, has led me in the past few months to prescribe organic bromides, and as the results of the experience have been in many ways satisfactory, I venture to record them. The physiological action of bromine itself—the element—is definite and well pronounced. In the old parlance it is an irritant, but the term does not strictly indicate all that it effects. To a certain extent a volatile body, it produces, when it is inhaled, a peculiar constricting action in the vessels which supply the secreting surfaces with their blood, so that inhalation of its diluted vapor makes the mucous surfaces with which it comes in contact dry and painful. After a time there is what may be called a reaction, due probably to the temporary paralysis of the vessels, and then there follows a free excretion of fluid, what the older writers would designate a flux or salivation, attended with some degree of local insensibility.

Applied directly, in the liquid form, to the body, and especially to a mucous surface, it acts as a direct destructive of tissue, not precisely as a caustic, but as a substance which leads to shrinking and slow death, with still more determinate local insensibility.

In combination with other elements, as with potassium, its direct action is modified but not removed. Passing through the tissues in a

condition of fine distribution, and probably separating from its ally, it exerts on the nervous matter its special sedative influence, causing, if it be carried far enough, its direct paralyzing influence over the vessels which govern secretion, and leading to a certain extent to decreased sensibility of the nerves which govern common sensibility.

On the whole, bromine may be considered as a medicine which acts primarily on the sympathetic or organic system of the nervous system, and as a modifier of vascular tension; and this, whether it be applied locally and directly, or generally and indirectly—i. e. in combination.

Thus we may rationally administer bromine with any other substance with which it will enter into chemical form of combination; we may trust to the developement of its due independent action, without regard to the action of the substance with which it may be combined, and we may be satisfied that it will not materially interfere with the action of the agent with which it has been made to combine.

Bromide of Quinine.

Bromide of quinine is formed by subjecting the alkaloid quinia to hydrobromic acid, or by acting on a salt of the alkaloid with bromide of potassium. The bromide of quinine is soluble, and, mixed with a simple syrup, is ready for administration as a medicine. I prefer to employ it as a syrup containing one grain of it in every fluid drachm. The dose of this syrup is from one to four fluid drachms.

Bromide of Morphine.

Bromide of morphine is made by a similar process to that used for making bromide of quinine; morphine or a salt of morphine being substituted for quinine or a quinine salt. This compound also makes up best in the form of a syrup, and the preparation I prescribe contains an eighth of a grain of bromide of morphine in a fluid drachm of simple syrup. The dose of this syrup is from one to four fluid drachms.

Bromide of Strychnine.

Bromide of strychnine is made in the same way as the two last-named preparations; strychnine, or a salt of it, taking the place of quinine or morphine. This, again, I always prescribe as a syrup, one thirty-second of a grain of the bromide being contained in one fluid drachm of the simple syrup. The dose of this syrup is from one to four fluid drachms.

Combinations.

I am in the habit of sometimes combining the preparations named above, in order to suit particular cases of disease. For example, I combine the bromide of quinine and morphine in syrup, so that each

fluid drachm of the syrup contains a grain of the salt of quinine, with an eighth of a grain of the salt of morphine, or I combine the three salts, so that the fluid drachm of syrup contains a grain of the quinine, an eighth of a grain of the morphine, and a thirty second of a grain of the strychnine salt. Speaking generally of all these salts, I may state that, in action, the bromide throughout, in so far as its action is indicated, is eliminative and sedative. I am satisfied the bromide of quinine can be administered freely, when quinine itself, or any other salts of it, cannot be readily tolerated. I am equally clear that the bromide favors the sedative action of morphia, while it at the same time allays the astringency which morphia induces; and lastly, I am satisfied from experiment that bromide reduces, or rather subdues and prolongs, the action of strychnine on muscular motion.

Notes on Practice.

I have prescribed bromide of quinine, and the other bromides named, in a large number of cases of diseases, and with results I did not fully expect. I will proceed briefly to indicate the leading facts that have occurred to me in the course of observation.

Bromide of quinine simply appears to me to be of good service in cases where certain special and persistent symptoms follow upon syphilis. I hardly speak now of the symptoms which patients themselves connect with that malady, but rather of those insidious symptoms which we, as medical men, who have lived long enough to have seen years of practice, trace back to a syphilitic basis, hereditary or acquired. A case of recurring rheumatism of this nature; a case of recurring ulceration of the fauces; a case of general nervous exhaustion with flying pains in the limbs, loss of appetite, general debility, loss of hair, and remaining thickening enlargement in the groin, a sequence of bubo: these have been instances in which the administration of the bromide of quinine, in doses of from two to three grains three times a day, has been more immediately and determinately beneficial than any other treatment I have either practiced myself, or seen practiced by my brethren of physio, in such forms of disease.

One great advantage of this preparation seems to me to be, that it allows one to give much larger doses of quinine than are common, and in frequent and continued doses without setting up the symptoms of headache, oppression, and singing in the ears, which mark what has been called cinchonism. Thus we may give three grains of bromide of quinine, three times a day, without inconvenience for several days if a smaller dose does not suffice.

I have an idea that the bromide of quinine might be administered with advantage in the earlier stages of the contagious diseases, such as small-pox. It would, I think, allay the severe nervous symptoms which usher in these diseases, and so moderate the secondary symptoms that follow in train. Since I began to introduce the bromide into practice, I have not had an opportunity of putting this suggestion to the test, but I have sent some of the preparation to Mr. Marson of the Small-pox Hospital, asking him to give it impartial trial. I have also asked my friend, Dr. Broadbent, to make trial of it at the Fever Hospital in cases of acute febrile disorders. The results they obtain I shall hope to communicate in a future number of this journal.

Bromide of Morphine

Is a useful addition to the salts of the alkaloid. It seems to me that a smaller dose of the salt than is effective in the case of the other morphine salts produces as distinct a narcotic influence, and also that the dose may be repeated more frequently without producing those after-effects of an opiate which tell against repetition of administration. For instance, in a case of extreme depression of a nervous kind, attended with determinate insania, in which, owing to the headache and nausea it produced, the muriate of morphia had been replaced by chloral hydrate, as the latter remedy had been continued until it had become hurtful, I prescribed the fourth of a grain of bromide of morphia at bed-time with excellent results, producing sleep without production of nausea or other distressing symptom. Knowing too well how apt we are to ascribe an efficacy to new remedies which belongs to other causes, I pen these first impressions on the action of this bromide with all due reserve. I write, in fact, mainly to secure the larger experience which will ensue when many acute observers are bringing the same remedy into daily use.

The Bromides of Quinine and Morphine

in combination constitute a remedy of which in cases suited for their administration, I cannot speak too favorably. Four classes of diseases seem to me to be specially benefited by this compound: viz., neuralgic fever, cerebral irritation, diabetic phthisis, and extreme acute attacks of intermittent pulse, the result of organic nervous shock. In acute neuralgia I administer a drachm of the syrup of bromide of quinine and morphia to an adult every two hours until the pain is altogether removed, and am able to report not only that pains can be effectually removed by it, but that the medicine exerts no derangement of the body that lessens its value. It calms pain without inducing deep narcotism, it interferes little with the secretions, it rarely causes nausea, and it

interferes little with the appetite. In the case of an esteemed member of our own profession, who has been for twelve months under my care, suffering from right hemiplegia, the most distressing symptom I have had to meet has been intense sciatic neuralgia. After a run of all narcotic tonic measures, I found happily in the bromide of quinine and iron a remedy which has now for three months held him free of suffering, and, as a consequence of freedom from pain and sleepless weariness, has led to a distinct improvement in his general health.

In diabetic phthisis I have administered the bromide of quinine and morphia with the same freedom. Under its influence, in these cases, the quantity of sugar and of fluid excreted by the urine notably decreases, cough is relieved, the appetite and digestive power are improved, and recurrent hectic is held in abeyance more certainly, I think, than by any other remedy or combination of remedies with which I am practically conversant.

In a case of intermittent pulse, where the lapse in the heart-stroke was painfully frequent, where there was continued feverish restlessness, and a fear of going to sleep that more than all sustained the irregular nervous action, the symptoms gave way at once under a few doses of bromide of quinine and morphia in a manner that was as gratifying to the prescriber as to the patient. The purpose of the medicine, in a word, was promptly fulfilled, and as demonstrably as if it had afforded mechanical instead of therapeutical relief. In a second case of intermittent pulse, where the intermittency is the prelude of great mental excitement, followed by depression and melancholia, the remedy has exerted a similar beneficent influence. It induces rest and sleep without the production of deep narcotism and without deranging digestion.

The Bromide of Strychnine

has rendered unquestionable service in a few cases of dyspepsia with and from deficient nervous control over the vascular supply of the organs concerned in the process of digestion, in cases of partial organic nervous paralysis of the ventricular division of the organic nervous system. In such cases of disease, and they are by no means uncommon, where, when the body is without food, there is a knowledge of hunger without the true sense of it; when there is congestion of the liver, and suppressed secretion to-day, accompanied by giddiness and irritability and præcordial oppression, with diarrhoea to-morrow, and then constipation: in these cases the bromide of strychnine in the proportion of one thirty-second of a grain may be given three times daily with

marked advantage, an alterative being at the same time occasionally added.

In some mixed cases of nervous pain, with want of organic nervous action in the digestive organs, I have combined the bromide of strychnine with bromide of quinine, and in many cases of this nature I have prescribed the three bromides with good results.

Syrup of the bromide of quinine, and strychnine, and syrup of the bromide of quinine, morphine and strychnine, will both, I believe, become favorite compounds with the profession, finding their place as Eastin's syrup of the superphosphate of iron, quinine, and strychnine has found its place in the list of tried and approved medicaments.

One other point of practice remains to me only to note. In cases where there is much dryness and irritability of the mucous membrane of the pharynx and larynx, the bromides are not commendable; the bromine increases the irritation. This was so marked in a case where there was a small ulcerated surface in the larynx, that I had to stop the administration altogether, the smallest dose producing violent and long-continued irritative cough and spasm.

Hydrobromic Ether.

Amongst other bromides that have medicinal qualities is hydrobromic ether, bromide of ethyl—C, H, Br. This ether is a light volatile liquid made by distilling four parts of powdered bromide of potassium, with five parts of a mixture consisting of two parts of strong sulphuric acid and one of alcohol, having a boiling-point of 104° Fahr., a specific gravity of 1.400, and a vapor density of 54, taking hydrogen as unity. It is nearly insoluble in the blood.

This ether is of interest from the fact that the late Mr. Nunneley, of Leeds, proposed and used it as a general anæsthetic, and came to the conclusion that it was the best and safest of all known anæsthetic substances. A few weeks before his death I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Nunneley, and in the course of our many conversations on scientific subjects, he spoke again of his experience with the bromide, and begged of me to submit it to a fair and strict investigation. I have carried out his wish and can report upon hydrobromic ether, that it is as Mr. Nunneley said of it, one of the safest of general anæsthetics. An atmosphere containing from eight to nine per cent. of the vapor of the bromide of ethyl, causes, when inhaled, entire destruction of common sensibility, rapidly and safely. The breathing remains tranquil, the pulse quiet, the expression good; the transition from the first to the third degree of narcotism is, moreover so rapid

that the second degree—degree of muscular excitement—is scarcely recognizable. There is no sign of apnoea; and when, in animals, the inhalation is carried to the extreme, the resistance of the heart to the paralyzing action of the narcotic is good. As might be expected from the low boiling point of the ether, 104° Fahr., and its insolubility in the blood, it is rapidly eliminated from the body when it has been withdrawn, so that the period of recovery is short, from three to five minutes.

When inferior animals are made to sleep into death by the vapor of the bromide of ethyl, the heart is found, directly after death, with blood on both sides and free of vascular congestion. The color of the blood on each side is natural and the lungs are left charged, without being surcharged, with blood. The coagulation of the blood is natural. The heart retains its irritability for as long a period of time as after death from methylic ether.

Mr. Nunneley's favorable opinion on the action of hydrobromic ether is therefore confirmed in respect to essentials, but I am not thereupon inclined to suggest that it should be employed in place of other and better known anesthetics. For irrespectively of the trouble and cost of making the ether, it has certain faults which are opposed to its general employment. It causes irritation of the throat in some cases, and occasionally vomiting; added to these objections, the fluid easily undergoes change on exposure to the air, with liberation of free bromine, when it becomes difficult, if not dangerous, to inhale.—*Med and Surgical Reporter*, July 29, 1871.

CATARRH, AND SOME OF ITS COMPLICATIONS.

BY THOMAS C. HENRY, M. D.

The writer has noticed lately several articles published upon this subject in Western medical periodicals, but the main topic discussed has been that form of the disease known by the name of Ozæna. Very little, if anything, seems to have appeared relative to a complication of catarrh with neuralgia. Cases have fallen within the sphere of my practice, where that very distressing and intractable last spoken of complication constituted the more prominent and distressing symptom. The medications here employed have been limited to the use of epispastics and nervines, all of which result in no good.

In almost all these cases, perhaps in all the frontal diseases, one of them seemed involved, and a rhinoscopic investigation determined disease of the turbinated bones.

Now it is simply impossible, without thorough and appropriate medication of the posterior upper naso palatine portions, to effect a cure. We must rely upon a very carefully conducted and thorough investigation of those parts; first ascertain their real condition, and that must be done by means of the rhinoscopic mirror. This, in contracted mouths and throats, is about a matter of impossibility. In ordinary catarrh, the uvula is found usually much elongated. I have met with cases, however, in which it was not. Those are often the complicated and severer cases. When one frontal sinus only is affected, the disease seems confined to one nostril as a general thing. Now, as to reaching the frontal sinus with the medicated stream seems to me by no means an easy matter; in fact, I do not believe it is ever done. Fortunately, nature generally manages to relieve herself there. At irregular periods, the patient experiences a very stuffed and aching fullness over one of the temples, seemingly increasing for two or three days, when something seems to give way and a watery secretion, together with hardened clots of nasal mucus is violently ejected; relief follows always, to some extent, for the time. In these severe forms, there is most distressing neuralgia of the face and even the eye on the affected side suffers dimness, at all events the optic nerve appears to sympathize. I may here remark that affections of the pituitary membrane are almost constant in these aggravated cases. The extensive distribution of the ramifications of the olfactory nerve, especially upon the septum nasi, would show that it must necessarily be involved in the general nasal disease.

Perversion of the sense of smell is sure to follow local congestion of the pituitary membrane. Sometimes this is the precursor of commencing caries, but only in some cases.

Ulcers of the nasal fossæ.—The rhinoscopist meets, now and then, with these in the front part of the nose without involving the posterior. These ulcers not seldom exhibit a disagreeable purulent odor. I think I have detected them in a number of cases in acute and protracted disease of the higher portions of the upper nasal passages, when no odor was to be observed in such situation. On the whole, it is, I must say, rather rare to find a well-determined case of ozæna without some odor coming from high up in the nasal passages, and especially involving the membrane lining the ethmoidal cells. Cases of disease of frontal sinuses often do not exist in ozæna, when present; these collections of fluid aggravate greatly the severity of the case. When violently and spasmodically ejected, we often observe very hard clots of phlegm streaked with blood. As to disease of the turbinated bones

they often arise from inflammation and attendant periostitis. As to syphilitic nasal disease, it is generally the case that the disease extends to the pharynx. Exudation of purulent fluid, upon examining the throat with the laryngoscope, is very apparent in nine cases out of ten when the disease has existed for as much as three weeks. To be sure the ulceration does not always extend to the pharynx in these cases, but still the turbinated bones pour out pus from their disorganizing substance, and that is viewed in the upper part of the pharynx. Affections of the interior of the nose demand consideration; frequently do they involve the throat and cause very distressing symptoms; on the other hand, throat ailments extend to the nose along the intervening mucous membrane, and, therefore, it is incumbent upon the physician who is in the habit of using the laryngoscope to employ the rhinoscope to make himself familiar with diseases to which he has hitherto been a stranger. It is sometimes well to know the causes of epistaxis. Mr. Ure has stated that in obstinate headache the blood is often poured out by the emissary veins, which have no analogy with the arteries in their distribution, but establish an intimate connection between the nostrils and the cranial veins. Diseases of the heart and liver give rise to epistaxy. Another cause is found by the rhinoscope from ulcer in the turbinated bones. A case is related, by some English writer, of a lady who incurred disease of the throat which existed for twelve years, caused by parotiditis. Tonsils and uvula were removed; great pain felt in the head and throat, more especially in the frontal sinuses; dark colored discharge from the back of the throat, and appeared to gather in the nose and head; soreness of chest; intense pain in both frontal sinuses; she was treated for neuralgia. Her breathing through left nostril, and not the other showed obstruction; bloody discharges from nostrils, tightness running up to head. On sleeping, she is often partially suffocated during the night. The rhinoscope showed inflammation on the floor of the right nostril with ulceration of a pinkish hue, left nostril healthful. In addition to the other symptoms, physical signs pointed to commencing disease of the chest, such as mucous rales and puerile breathing in the left chest. I have seen in this city a case nearly as severe as this, only physical signs pointed to no chest disease at least none seemed apparent.

Syphilitic cases of nasal disease are seldom accompanied with chronic inflammation of the whole larynx, and sometimes the vocal chords participate, with cedema of the false.

Ulceration commonly affects the turbinated bones, but Mr. Ure

reports cases where the whole of the nasal bones have proved largely affected. As regards this matter of disease in the nasal passages, is the extension of the inflammation to the upper part of the pharynx, and from thence to the eustachian tube into the middle ear, obstructing the membrana tympani and causing deafness as the result.

However thoroughly nasal diseases may be treated, the tendency to inflammation and subsequent disorganization will be found through the entire subsequent life of the individual. The same observation is equally true of all of the mucous membrane lining the nasal ducts, the eustachian tube, the middle ear, and the pharynx.

In the treatment of *ozæna*, the bichloride of mercury will be found useful; also carbolic acid as a disinfectant. In number three of the *Journal of Ophthalmology and Otology*, several instances are reported, in which no trifling harm was effected by the employment of Thadicum's nasal douche. The posterior nasal syringe is by far the safest instrument in treating diseases of the nasal cavities, and sufficiently effectual.—*The Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, June, 1871.

TREATMENT OF SCARLET FEVER.

BY W. E. WHITEHEAD, M. D., United States Army.

Scarlet fever being very prevalent at present, and wide spread in its ravages, I concluded that my experience in the treatment of this greatly dreaded disease might probably be instrumental in preserving some little patient from suffering, and perhaps death. After an experience of some years, I have seen no plan of treatment that gave me so much satisfaction, or so great success, in the management of this fever in all but the most malignant types: in which latter cases, I do not know if any treatment be of avail, for I have never seen a single case of recovery; but on the contrary, have seen the patient succumb to the virulence of the poison in less than twenty-four hours. Under these latter circumstances, remedies have scarcely time to affect the system, either for good or evil.

I first satisfy myself that it is a case of scarlet fever, being guided in forming the diagnosis generally by the appearance of the tongue, which is usually very characteristic. I allude to the peculiar elevation of the papillæ, their *red* color, and the creamy white coat through which these papillæ force their way. Being satisfied as to the correctness of the diagnosis, I at once order the patient to be sponged all over,

a part of the body at a time, with hot water, in which has been dissolved enough *saleratus* (the impure carbonate of potash, to be found generally in every household) to cause a soapy or greasy sensation when the fingers are rubbed together after wetting them in the solution. This sponging is to be continued some time, from fifteen minutes to half an hour, when the surface is allowed to dry, which it generally does as fast as the sponge passes over it, from the intense heat of the skin. When dry, rub the entire surface lightly over with a pece of bacon rind, or with sweet almond oil, or fine olive (salad) oil. If the throat is sore and painful, apply a thin slice of bacon, or a flannel bandage well saturated with oil; and in either case, made stimulating by a small quantity of good red pepper sprinkled on its surface. Give a mild aperient in the early stages, to free the bowels of all alvine accumulations. Give, then, a well-diluted solution of chlorate of potassa, from a scruple to one or more drachms, according to age or circumstances; the above-named quantity of the salt to be taken at intervals during the twenty-four hours, in cold water, but better in barley water, or rice water. Give all the drink—barley, apple, or orange water—that the patient may desire. The bathing and anointing are to be repeated at least once in every twenty-four hours; and should the heat of the skin be great, with much restlessness and a high axillary temperature, the bathing and anointing should be repeated twice or three times in the twenty-four hours. A dose of *tinct. ferri chlor.* every twelve hours in the early stages, where the tendency to diphtheria, anæmia, or other manifestations of blood poisoning are present, is very important.

The diet should be simple, nutritious, and easily assimilated: milk and its various preparations, eggs, beef-tea, or strong broth, and when necessary, good sparkling wines, champagnes, catawbas, etc. The urine should be carefully examined daily, and the instant any albumen is detected, the lumbar region should be rubbed with warm spirits of wine or turpentine liniment. Dry cups may be applied often with benefit, and sometimes wet cups or leeches become necessary to properly meet the indication. Should all these expedients not arrest the kidney trouble, I have found a free dose of calomel of great benefit, and have seen it in many cases effect speedy cure.

I will not undertake here to explain how the calomel effects so happy a result, but merely now give you my experience in the treatment of scarlet fever. Of course, the calomel must be given with caution, and not indiscriminately to each and every case. Due care must be ob-

served not to administer this remedy in cases of great debility, of granular kidneys, or to very old and feeble persons.

I consider the rind of bacon the best possible article that can be used for anointing purposes in this disease, for it yields plenty of animal oil, and at the same time you get the stimulating effects of the creasote, and other compounds, produced by the smoke which the bacon has been subjected to in the process of curing.—*Pacific Medical and Surg. Jour.*, April, 1871.

Editorial.

ROTUNDA LYING-IN HOSPITAL,

Dublin, Ireland, August 16, 1871

FROM LONDON TO THE IRISH CAPITAL.

MESSRS. EDITORS:

Our run-and-read ramble through London is done, and with regrets we turn our back upon this great city, feeling we have left much unseen, though perhaps we have given her chief attractions our passing attention and secured a very good idea of the "lights and shades" of London life. But he who would thoroughly see London, with all her centuries-treasured productions of Science, Art, Literature and royal relics, her Public Monuments, Parks, Buildings, Churches, Abbeys, and holy places where are enshrined the ashes of England's "most illustrious and greatest dead in Art, in Song, in rank and in statesmanship;" carefully observe her practical, physical, moral and social bearings, and her many individual traits and peculiarities; profitably study her Museums, Gardens, and Picture Galleries; and learn from her living Masters, must devote not simply days, but years. Time however forbids us to tarry longer in the "Great Metropolis" and urges our departure for the Irish Capital.

Our *point du départ* is Enston Station, and our *route via*. London and North Western Railway to Holyhead, thence across the Irish Channel to Kingstown, and thence by rail to Dublin. All along the line of the London and North Western Railway the mind and eye are kept busy; the grand and antique in Art, the marvellous in Science, the beautiful and sublime in nature, the ornamental, attractive and utilizing in agriculture, all combine to produce

wonderment, charm the eye and engage the attention. At one time we look out upon magnificent private residences, stupendous public piles and structural evidences of individual wealth and national power and prosperity, the work of modern times; again upon imposing ruins, broken columns, dilapidated and gloomy Towers, grey old Castles, and renowned Cathedrals, whose original occupants and designers belonged to an age we reach only by traveling over *centuries*, now most sacredly preserved and reverentially guarded, standing, as they do, commemorative relics of individual greatness and power and of the stirring events of a venerable period.

At one time we are born along with the velocity of the wind through a picturesque and fertile section of country interspread with small villas and luxuriant isolated homes of Nobility whose large *deemenes* are garden-like in their appearance, divided and subdivided by grandly beautiful hedges, dotted with richly verdure-clad shady woods, lakes, and hunting-parks abounding in deer; again more especially through Wales and the Isles of Anglesea and Holyhead, we are hurried through a mountainous and barren tract; here to our right surges the sea, while to our left tower wild and craggy heights; here the peasant and there the fisherman, whose exterior tells of oppression, want and ill-recompensed toil, declaring, in a silent though unmistakeable language, the character of their surroundings, social status and physical condition to be truly deplorable, and painfully impressing us with their consciousness of their forlorn hope in life.

The land being on a considerable rise outward from London, the train, on starting, moves slowly and we have a good opportunity of observing the main features of the line for quite a distance. Gradually we enter the excavations from the London Clay, under arches and between ponderous walls some twenty feet beneath the street-level. The impression on the mind, as the eye takes in the situation is striking; above us in close proximity to the railway are comfortable and pretty villas, on either side massive walls, now dark archways, anon the carriages of the "Wild Irishman" sweeping by.

Arriving at Camden, we have the opportunity of ticketing ourselves over the West London Extension Railway to Richmond with its famous Park and beautiful views; to Kew with its world-renowned Botanic Gardens and Royal Pleasure Grounds; thence by South-Western trains to Hampton with its ancient Palace, founded by Cardinal Woolsey, with its Gallery of Paintings and noble Gothic Hall; to Windsor, with its Royal Castle, Chapel, Long Walk, Lake, Park and Forest, opposite which, only a little way off, stands "Eton" the nursery of England's statesmen, nobility and gentry; to Esher and Claremont; to the world-renowned Cathedrals of Winchester and Salisbury; and to the "Wooden Walls of Old England" at Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

From Camden on to Holyhead the journey is richly diversified. Wonderful displays of the skill of the Engineer in tunneling the chalk and clay grounds, arching and spanning the rivers are exhibited, while a thousand and one places are seen which recall associations with many interesting records of by-gone days. We sweep by "Chalk Farm," once a fashionable rendezvous for duellists

into the gloomy atmosphere of "Primrose-hill" tunnel in the construction of which eight million brick were consumed; close to "Kensal Green Cemetery" which we are told "was the first modern burial-place which restored the good early Christian, and even the Pagan custom of interring the dead apart from the living;" and soon reach that celebrated locality known as "Harrow-on-the Hill." The Iron Horse rushes on, stopping neither sufficiently long enough to take in coal or water, actually gathering a supply of the later from tanks *sunk* by the way, *without slackening his speed*; plunges into the darkness of several Tunnels, the most important of which is "Kilsby," 2,423 yards in length and built at an expense of \$1500.000; through the great chalk ridge of Ivanhoe; across that magnificent structure, "Volverton Viaduct" beneath which flow the rivers Ouse and Tow; and now halts at the far-famed classical Rugby.

Our next stopping place is Crew, previous to reaching which we pass Neameaton, with its ribbon-weaving population, its Priory, Clay-pits, quarries of freestone and battle-ground, known as "Bosworth Field;" have a look at Tamworth Castle, and thus all along are brought into close proximity to many an interesting and illustrious locality. Continuing on we shortly enter Wales, leave Gwrych Castle to the land-side and pass under the very walls of Conway Castle.

But space interdicts even the bare mention, much more a satisfactory description of half the places, scenes, and associations, into which we are introduced, and compels us to review more briefly the remainder of our journey. But we must not neglect Bangor. This station ought certainly to retain the tourist a few hours. Here is the grey old Bangor Cathedral, and a short and delightful drive out of Town brings us to Caernarvon Castle; to Llanberis, the Villa of Rocks, nestled amid the wildest of mountain scenery at the base of high rocks whose summits penetrate the clouds; and close where lift Snowdon's Heights from which, if the day be propitious, can be had a good view of part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Isle of Man. Here too are the "Mewai" and "Britannia Tubular" Suspension bridges over the Newai Straits, the greatest triumphs of engineering genius to be found in the kingdom. The Old Cathedral was built in the sixth century, is an embattled cruciform structure with a low massive tower, and is still used as a place of worship. The Castle was erected by Edward I, was the birth place of Edward II, and visitors are conducted through the very apartment where tradition has it the Sovereign was born. The gateway, through which you enter, is watched over by a mutilated figure which is supposed to represent the royal founder.

A magnificent vessel awaits our arrival at the Pier of Holyhead and we embark for a run of seventy miles. About one half hour is consumed in the transfer of passengers, mail and luggage, and then we steam out into the channel, and are soon under full headway, ploughing the water at the rate of twenty miles per hour. In a little while land fades from our sight, and now smoke pipes, white sails and mast-heads alone are visible. While

watching these pass, re-pass and disappear, our attention is directed to ill-defined outlines of objects looming up in the distance, which, we are told, are peaks of the Irish Shore, and now all eyes are turned upon a prospect which gradually unfolds into a picture of surpassing loveliness as we enter the fine Bay of Dublin and approach Kingstown backed by beautiful hills.

The Channel is a treacherous body of water, and one can place little dependence upon the character of his voyage, however propitious may be the circumstances under which he sets sail. Storms rise suddenly and sea-sickness is the rule of the transit. But the day we crossed was remarkably fine; hardly a white crest came within the range of our vision, and fortunately we had no reminder of our Trans-Atlantic experience.

On the quay at Kingstown, close by where we make our moorings, stands the "Mail Express" which is to convey us to the Irish Capitol. A ride of thirty minutes by rail, and we find ourselves in Dublin, and are soon comfortably quartered at the Shelbourne Hotel, which, by the by, is a new house, constructed upon the American plan, and by far the most acceptable hotel to Americans to be found in the city. We remained there a few days which we devoted to sight-seeing, and then removed to the "Rotunda" our present place of engagement.

BROMO CHLORALUM.

Dr. L. P. Brockett, of New York, Author of "Essay on Iritis," "our Indigenous Materia Medica," "Essay on Idiocy," and the articles, Surgery, Military Surgery, Spotted Fever, Cholera, &c., in Appleton's Cyclopædias.

HAS NOW A NEW WORK IN PRESS, "ASIATIC CHOLERA," FROM WHICH WE ARE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING:

THE NEW DISINFECTANTS AND DEODORIZERS.

The numerous disinfectants which have been heretofore in use were, some of them, very effective in destroying the germs of infection when applied directly to them; while others merely removed the unpleasant odor or substituted another, perhaps almost as unpleasant, for it, but did not destroy the infecting germs, simply concealing their presence.

To the uneducated generally, all disinfectants have been pretty much alike; they were something which removed one bad smell by substituting another for it, about as bad, and why or how it did it, or whether it could be done as well or better in any other way, they did not know.

But to men who were familiar with sanitary science, there was a great difference, and there was a demand for some disinfectant which should possess these qualities, viz.: 1. A power of thoroughly destroying all the germs of infection, by some astringent or mildly corrosive property which it contained. 2. An absence of any positive, and at all events of any unpleasant odor in the disinfectant itself. 3. Its vapor must not im-

part to the air any acrid or irritating property rendering it prejudicial to weak lungs, or to any person who had occasion to breathe the air charged with it. 4. It must not stain or corrode or weaken any vegetable fibre, such as articles of dress, bedding, furniture, etc. 5. It must be capable of application, moderately diluted, to gangrened wounds or sores or to irritated surfaces, and of being used as a gargle or wash, and if possible, also, of harmless internal administration. 6. If used for sprinkling streets, or stables, or any places where it might be brought in contact with animal tissues, it must not injure or burn them.

It was obviously a difficult matter to find a disinfectant possessing all these qualities, which should, at the same time, be capable of being produced so cheaply as to come into general use. The sulphates of iron and zinc and still more that of copper, were excluded on the ground of their corrosive and poisonous properties. They answered the first and second, but not the other requisitions; most of the chlorides hitherto tried, were objectionable, not only as poisonous, but for their strong and irritating odor, the chlorides of lime and of soda being specially disagreeable for the latter quality, and the chloride of zinc, as a caustic poison. The permanganate of potassa was objectionable as a poison, and for its comparatively high cost. Carbolic acid, though a powerful disinfectant, was an acrid poison and its powerful odor was not only offensive to many, but rendered its vapor very irritating to the lungs. The carbolates of lime and aluminium and the cresylic and carbolic soaps were much less objectionable, but still retained much of the unpleasant odor, and were not adapted to all cases of application. But the sanitary chemists thought they had discovered an indication in some of these preparations which would lead to better results. Using alumina or aluminium as a base, the powerful disinfectants Chlorine and Bromine could be combined with it in such proportions as to produce an inodorous, unirritating, non-corrosive preparation which should still be highly effective as a disinfectant and deodorizer, and since the beginning of 1870, they have brought their theories to the test of practice, with remarkable success. The first preparation of the kind was a chloride of aluminium prepared by an English chemist, and called *Chloralum*, which Professor Gamgee, the distinguished veterinary surgeon and author, after subjecting it to the severest tests, pronounced superior to any other disinfectant he had ever tried. Another English chemist produced a hydrated ehloride of aluminium, which, though not much used yet, seems to possess excellent qualities. A French chemist prepared a secret disinfectant containing some of the corrosive salts of copper and zinc, and possessing the property of cauterizing or cooking all animal tissues with which it is brought in contact. To this preparation he has given the name of *Girondin*, for what reason, unless from its destructive properties, it would be hard to say. Its use must of course be restricted, for it is too corrosive to be applied to clothing, to the skin, or to any sores or wounds or to furniture.

It was reserved for some American pharmaceutical chemists to hit upon a compound, possessing still better properties as a disinfectant, than anything yet prepared. Observing the excellent qualities of the *Chloralum*, and familiar with the antiseptic and disinfectant qualities of the salts of Bromine, from their long and extensive experience as manufacturing pharmacutists, Messrs. Tilden & Co., of New Lebanon, N. Y., and 176 William street, New York City, added a bromide to it, forming a compound Bromo-Chloride of Aluminium, or, as they have named it, *Bromo-Chloralum*. This preparation is entirely free from caustic properties, has no odor of its own; and effectually removes all offensive odors where it is sprinkled or cloths wet with it are hung up and the liquid evaporated; its vapor has no irritating property, even to the weakest lungs; it is a thorough and perfect disinfectant, destroying not by corrosion, but by its antiseptic quality, all fungi and germs of disease; it is applicable in a dilute state to ulcers, sores, gangrened wounds, and catarrhal or other inflammations of the mucous membranes and the air passages, is an admirable gargle, and, if taken internally, has an alterative and stimulating effect. In cholera, its use in all the vessels before they are required, the application to clothes, dipped in a diluted preparation of it, around the bed and suspended in the room, will effectually remove the possibility of contagion. The floors, walls, carpets and furniture may be sprinkled with it, freely, without injury; and all the privies, vaults, kitchens and pantries should be fully disinfected by it. In tenement houses, meat and fish markets, vegetable markets and green groceries, and in the neglected streets of our great cities, it will be found invaluable. With a good supply of it on hand, and thoroughly distributed, most of our towns in the Mississippi valley, may successfully combat the inroads of either cholera or yellow fever. These statements are not mere theories based on the abstract knowledge of the disinfecting power of Bromine and Chlorine, but the results of its subjection to the severest tests by men whose authority in all these matters is indisputable. On any question of Hygiene, no name in this country stands higher than that of Dr. Charles A. Lee, a professor, and author of several very able works, on the subject of Hygiene and Materia Medica; and after subjecting it to the most rigid tests in a variety of ways, Dr. Lee says, "Regarding the *Bromo-Chloralum* as altogether the most valuable article of the kind hitherto introduced into practical medicine and hygiene, I most cheerfully and confidently recommend its use to the profession and the public." Our own observation of its effects, leads us to endorse the Doctor's opinion most heartily.

The Bromo-Chloralum was used in a severe case of CANCER at Rutland, Vt. We give the following correspondence explaining its mode of use and results:

On a late visit to Rutland, Vt., in company with Dr. Pierce, at the request of the attending physician, Dr. Pond, I used the article in a small

and imperfectly ventilated room occupied by a patient who has suffered with a CANCER for three years past, his chin and lower lip being one running ulcer, the odor of which was so fetid and disagreeable that but few could remain in his room for any length of time, even after using the ordinary disinfectants. I wet a cloth of about four feet square with a dilution of one part to six of water, which was suspended near his bed; all foul odors were almost instantaneously removed, rendering the air odorless. Upon again visiting the room after an absence of fifteen minutes no trace whatever of the disagreeable smell could be perceived, greatly to the surprise of every one present, as well as the comfort of the patient and his family.

J. A. McMAKEN, Chemist.

Dr. Pierce writes as follows:

RUTLAND, Vt., Sept. 19th, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR:—

I have made constant use of your disinfectant, "Bromo-Chloralum" in the case of the patient that I am attending, suffering with Cancer, at this place. It works like a charm, and keeps the air perfectly pure.

I am also using the "Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Comp.," as a lotion and the Elixir of the same internally, in the same case with the happiest results. They have far excelled my expectations. My patient is greatly improved, and able to walk about his room. I would like to have you send me the same amount of "Bromo-Chloralum" and of the Elixir, for the patient, that you left me on your visit here, as I am very nearly out of both.

Yours Respectfully,

H. H. PIERCE, M. D.

HERMANN, GASCONADE Co., Mo., Sept. 22, 1871.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co.:

Gentlemen,—Having given a full trial to the New Disinfectant, "Bromo-Chloralum" recently introduced by you, I feel it due to the medical profession to report the results of its action in my experience.

1st. In confirmed and obstinate case of Cancer I have used it as a lotion with great success,—its effect being to destroy the offensive odor always attending such cases,—besides having a specific action on the sore itself, so that my patient has been greatly benefited and improved by its use.

2d. In a severe case of *Hemorrhagia Uteri*, I have applied it as an injection, moderately diluted, with the happiest results.

3d. Used in the same way I have found it highly beneficial in the treatment of Gonorrhœa and Leuchorrhœa.

4th. I have administered it in a case of Pulmonary Consumption,

combined with Cod Liver Oil and Syrup of Squill, according to the following formula.

R Cod Liver Oil..... $\frac{3}{4}$ vi.
Syr. Squill..... $\frac{3}{4}$ i.
Bromo-Chloralum 3 i—M.

Dose,—A table spoonful 3 times a day; and have found its action more satisfactory than that of the two former agents alone.

I have no hesitation in commending it most cordially to the Medical Profession and the public as the best disinfectant and deodorizer as yet introduced,—far preferable in all particulars to Chloride of Lime, Carbol-ic Acid and the poisonous Metallic Salts.

Very Respectfully,

AUG. NASSE, M. D.

[Letter from G. A. BRACH, Esq., Sheriff of Albany County.]

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1871.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co:—

Gentlemen,—I have made a full experiment with your Disinfectant "Bromo-Chloralum" in the Albany County Jail, and take pleasure in stating that it demonstrated its superior efficacy for the purposes claimed,—in neutralizing and destroying unpleasant odors,—especially in its effect on what is known as the "prison smell." I cordially recommend its general use.

[Extract from letter of C. D. MANNING, M. D., of Camanche, Iowa.]

Sept. 4, 1871.

"Accept my thanks for the samples; they are all that could be desired in my experience thus far.

The "Bromo-Chloralum" is the most elegant disinfectant I have ever used. I shall never do without it in my practice."

[Letter from V. J. PERNS, Agent Mullanphy Emigrant Home.]

St. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 4, 1871.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co:—

Gentlemen,—Having made a fair test of your valuable preparation "BROMO-CHLORALUM," I find it to be one of the BEST DISINFECTANTS in the market, and can safely recommend its use to every family.

[Letter from HENRY J. LINNEMAN, Formerly of Brown Weber & Co.]

St. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 5, 1871.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co:—

Gentlemen,—I have given your new Disinfectant Bromo-Chloralum a thorough trial, and must say that it stood the test better than any preparation that has come to my notice, and I have tried almost everything.

The great merit of your Disinfectant is, that it leaves no unpleasant odor after accomplishing the purposes required.

[Letter from A. T. HALLIDAY, National Hotel, Courtland Street.]

NEW YORK, Sept. 20, 1871.

MESSRS. TILDEN & Co:—

Gentlemen,—I have used your "Bromo-Chloralum," as a deodorizer, around sinks and water closets in my house, and find it more efficacious than any substance used before, and with none of the objections attending other disinfectants.

New Census and Patent Laws.

We are indebted to Munn & Co., publishers of the *Scientific American*, New York, for a neat little bound volume of 120 pages, entitled as above. It contains the complete Census of 1870, showing the Population, by Counties, of all the States and Territories, with their Areas, and the Population of the Principal Cities. Also, the new Patent Laws in full, with Forms, Official Rules, Directions how to obtain Patents, Copyrights, Regulations for Trade-Marks, Assignments, How to Sell Patents, etc. Also, a large variety of valuable information relating to Water-Wheels, Steam-Engines, and other mechanism, with many useful tables and recipes, 175 diagrams of Mechanical Movements, etc. We advise every body to send for it as above. Price, 25 cents. A more valuable compendium, for so small a price, has rarely been published.

Modern Operation for Cataract.

We have read with much interest and instruction the able address delivered by Hasket Derby, M. D. University Lecturer on Ophthalmology, before the Harvard Medical School, April 5th, 1871, on the Modern Operation for Cataract.

No branch of surgery possesses greater interest than that which especially treats of diseases of the Eye, and we congratulate the Profession in general on the addition of this able and exhaustive treatise on the subject.

✉ Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

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[No. 10.]

Communications.

DIOSCOREA VILLOSA.
(*Wild Yam.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Dioscoreæ of Lindley. This plant will be found in the Linnean artificial classification, in class *Diccia* and order *Hexandria*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Staminate flowers—calyx 6 parted; corol none.

Pistillate flowers—styles 3; capsule 3-celled, 3-winged, compressed; seeds 2, membranaceous. (Leaves generally alternate.)

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—(Perennial, flowers in June.) Leaves alternate, opposite and whorled, cordate, acuminate, pubescent beneath, 2-nerved; lateral nerves simple; stem climbing.

HABITAT.—Native of North America.

PART USED.—Root.

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.—Anti-spasmodic, expectorant, diaphoretic and anodyne.

HISTORY.—Water or alcohol extract its properties. The root

has been used in many localities in the treatment of a variety of nervous diseases, and in bilious colic. Its active principle, dioscorein, is highly lauded by Eclectic Physicians, for its nervine and anti-spasmodic properties. The *College Journal of Medical Science* of May, 1858, quotes from the *Western Medical Reform*, in which it is said:—"The knowledge of its medical virtues was obtained from a celebrated physician of New Jersey by the name of BONE, who used it for many years as a secret remedy for bilious colic, and was eminently successful in its treatment." In that article, it is said to possess "strong anti-spasmodic and anodyne, as well as some diaphoretic and *anti-emetic* properties."

The *College Journal* to which allusion has been made, quotes from Prof. T. J. WRIGHT in an article published in the *American Medical Journal*, in which he said of the infusion of the root, as prepared by Dr. BONE:—"In many cases of bilious colic it affords relief and restores the sufferer, as by magic, to health and quietude."

Our author continues, on page 226 of the *Jour.*: "Nearly all who have used the Wild Yam for the treatment of bilious colic have relied on an infusion of the root in warm water, which of course would contain those principles which were soluble in warm water, but the powder called *Dioscorein*, is made by steeping the root in alcohol or dilute alcohol, and contains elements soluble in it, while those soluble in water and not in alcohol are *not* obtained. Consequently the powder called *Dioscorein* does not resemble in all regards the infusion which has been reputed useful in bilious colic." J. KING says, in the *American Eclectic Dispensatory*, p. 443: "It (*dioscorein*) is strictly an Eclectic remedy of great value, and not known or employed by practitioners of other Schools." The author would here remark, that a rational practitioner will use the best remedies that can be obtained, irrespective of the source from which they originated.

Therapeutical Employment.

Bilious Colic.—The St. Louis, *Medical and Surgical Journal* has published a paper of Dr. C. T. HART, in which he says, a more extended clinical experience is developing a much broader range of action for the *Dioscorea*. For a long time, he observes, it was

confined almost exclusively to the treatment of bilious colic, in which disease it has been regarded as very nearly a specific.

More recently (he adds) it is found to possess equally positive if not so speedy therapeutic value in the management of other diseases. He claims that its particular value is in diseases of the mucous surfaces," in overcoming irritation of the mucous membrane, attended with pain resulting from spasmodic contractions," and that it may be administered with benefit in disorders of the mucous membrane of the stomach, bowels, bladder, uterus, or the lining of the ducts opening into the *prima via*.

Our author observes:—"In no disease probably is any single remedy more prompt and certain in action than the dioscorea in bilious colic." Speaking of its medical properties, Dr. HART uses the following language:—"In short, it may be classed as anodyne and anti-spasmodic, allaying excitement, relaxing muscular tissue, and in certain cases relieving pain when all preparations of opium fail." He proceeds:—"This fact, together with its specific and unvarying action on certain diseased tissues places it among our positive remedies."

Prof. PAINE observes that the experiments made with the dioscorein were first directed to its influence over bilious colic, owing to the reputed power of the crude article over that disease. He informs us that the first instance in which he used the dioscorein, was in the case of a lady, about forty years of age, who had been laboring under a severe form of the affection for three days, in spite of the usual remedies taken to relieve her. He ordered two grains to be given every fifteen minutes, followed by a small draught of hot water. The second dose relieved the violence of the paroxysm, and in the course of two hours the vomiting and pain had been entirely controlled, although there were gastric and enteric inflammation for several days, which yielded, however to hot packs, aconite, and veratrum. Subsequently he used the remedy in a number of cases under more favorable circumstances, and in each instance immediate relief was the result, and in no case in which he has used the dioscorein previously to the use of other remedies, has he found inflammatory symptoms developed; hence he remarks, that he has every reason to believe that they would occur very rarely in bilious colic, if they were not

produced by pernicious medication. On consulting with his medical friends, he learns that their experience is similar to his own.

The remarks of Prof. P.—relative to this agent are important; He says:—"As to the extent to which I have used the drug, I would remark, that although I have not kept a detailed account of all the cases, yet I have prescribed it constantly for five or six years, and with almost uniform success."

"My experience with it, as well as such information as I could obtain from others, leads me to believe that it possesses more power over painful nervous affections than any other remedy in the materia medica. Its influence on the system appears to be of a more specific character than otherwise, as it relieves the pain, without producing any remarkable constitutional symptoms; for after taking one or two grains every two hours for a few days, the system appears to re-act, and the pain and paroxysm disappear, the appetite becomes natural, and the bowels and kidneys, together with all the emunctories of the body, assume their natural functions. In most chronic nervous affections, I combine the dioscorein with some preparation of iron, and use such other adjunct remedies as the nature of the case demands. In malarial districts, I use it with sulphate of quinine." *American Eclectic Dispensatory*, p. 441, Dr. KING, in speaking of the *Dioscorea Villosa* observes:—"Successfully used by Eclectics in bilious colic in doses of half a pint of the decoction, repeated every half hour or hour; in fact no other agent seems necessary in this disease, as it gives prompt and permanent relief in the most severe cases."

Dr. King, in his remarks on dioscorein, * says:—"Dioscorein possesses the properties of the crude root in an eminent degree, and is undoubtedly as much a specific in bilious colic, as quinia is in intermittent. In a severe case of bilious colic pronounced past hope by several physicians, four grains rubbed up with a table-spoonful of brandy afforded prompt relief, and a repetition of the dose, in about twenty minutes from the time of taking the first effected a cure. In ordinary cases one or two grains of dioscorein may be administered every five, ten or twenty minutes, according to the urgency of the case."

* Authors differ relative to this word, some call it dioscorin, others dioscorein.

In the *Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests*, by Dr. PORCHER, p. 618, GRIFFITH'S *Med. Botany*, is quoted, 659:—"The decoction of the root, according to RIDDELL, in a late paper, *Synops.*, Flo. West, St. 93, is eminently beneficial in bilious colic; one ounce is added to one pint of water, and half of this is taken at a dose. He says it acts with great promptitude, and that Dr. NEVILLE places much reliance on the tincture as an expectorant; it is likewise diaphoretic, and in large doses emetic. Attention is invited to its employment.

Prof. WOOD, in the recently published edition of the *U. S. Disp.*, states that the "Eclectics" use a principle called *dioscorein* in doses of one to four grains, which is only the tincture precipitated."

The author has prescribed the fluid extract in some cases with marked benefit. It may be administered in conjunction with opium, or chloroform with advantage.

Neuralgia.—Prof. PAINE states that he has used the *dioscorein* in nearly every form of painful neuralgia, and has found it equally valuable. He says:—"In facial neuralgia, hyperæsthesia of the spine, brain, uterus, and other portions of the nervous system, its power is most marked, and in nearly every instance relief has been afforded. Of course, the causes, predisposing and exciting, received their due attention and appropriate treatment, as well as other complications." It will be found serviceable, in some instances to alternate this drug with iron, aconite, belladonna, chloral or chloroform as the symptoms may appear to indicate.

Dysentery.—Dr. C. T. HART, previously mentioned, observes:—"In the painful tenesmus of dysentery it gives prompt relief, and can be most advantageously combined with other remedies in treating this distressing malady."

After the bowels have been sufficiently moved by some mild cathartic, this drug should be administered in conjunction with opium, camphor, gelsemium sempervirens, matico, or geranium maculatum, as the judgment of the physician may decide.

Dysmenorrhœa.—Dr. C. T. H.—observes:—"In dysmenorrhœa dependent on irritation of the mucous membrane of the uterine neck, it is a valuable adjunct, if not in every case singly equal to the task of removing the disorder." Some afflicted with this

affection, will respond more promptly to the use of *dioscorea villosa* in conjunction with *ferri iodidum*, opium, stramonium, or chloroform.

Dysuria.—This affection may depend upon the properties or chemical constitution of the urine especially in irritable states of the urinary bladder and urethra. (Copland.)

It is sometimes associated with dysmenorrhœa, leucorrhœa, dysentery, diseases of the rectum, etc. Dysuria, says Dr. C. T. H.,—arising from irritation of the neck of the bladder yields promptly to its use, either simply, or associated with other agents. In the treatment of this malady, remedies must be addressed, in most instances to the causes; they being very various, hence, no one remedy would be equally beneficial in all forms of dysuria.

Vomiting of Pregnant Women.—Very many remedies have been mentioned by medical authors for the relief of this often, harassing complaint, to which list, dioscorein has been added.

Dr. KING says:—"It may be combined with the extract of *cornus sericea*, to overcome the nausea and vomiting of pregnant females."

Borborygmi.—The *American Eclectic Dispensatory*, p. 442, in treating of dioscorein, observes:—"In flatulence, borborygmi, etc., it may be advantageously combined with ginger, aletrin, or *asclepin*." In this affection sulph. Zinc, in two grain doses, in combination with two grains of dioscorein, if persevered in for a considerable period of time will prove decidedly beneficial.

After-pains.—Dr. KING remarks, p. 443:—"In cramp of the stomach, or painful spasmodic affections of the bowels, a pill or powder composed of equal parts of dioscorin, caulophyllin, and viburnin, will be found a remedy of great value, as well as in after-pains, the mixture should be given in three or four-grain doses, and repeated every half hour or hour."

After-pains, that do not yield to the above prescription, should be treated with dioscorein and *hyoscyamus*, camphor or opium.

When stimulants are indicated, they may be administered in conjunction with this drug.

Convulsions.—The causes, giving rise to convulsions, are too numerous to mention in connection. Convulsions, which occur as

a consequence of exhausting bowel complaint, and frequently witnessed in young children, are controlled, frequently, by this agent. A good combination for this class of patients, would be, fluid extract of *dioscorea villosa*, fifteen drops, fluid extract of *gelsemium sempervirens*, two drops, and *laudanum* two drops, repeated according to symptoms. In puerperal convulsions, the practice is in rather an unsettled state—some advocating, and some denouncing blood-letting, some rely on opium, others on emetics, purgatives, or chloroform, etc., etc.

In this formidable affection, the author would recommend the use of bromide of potassium in twenty grain doses, followed by doses of three grains of *dioscorein*, and repeated in thirty minutes. Doses and repetition regulated according to circumstances, after two or three repetitions. Chloroform, or ether, to be inhaled at intervals.

The prevention of puerperal convulsions should be considered of paramount importance. Previous to parturition, if the urine give evidence of any great amount of albuminous accumulation in the system, danger may be apprehended, and remedies should be employed to arrest its progress, and eliminate the offending product from the system. Many agents have been recommended for this purpose, and perhaps, no one remedy will accomplish more than *sambucus canadensis*. The inside bark, or flowers should be used freely in infusion, or steeped in hard cider. Children are often affected with convulsions dependent on verminous irritation of the alimentary canal; in such instances six or eight grains of calomel, in combination with two grains of *dioscorein*, will be found highly beneficial; the *dioscorein* arresting, to some extent the paroxysms, during the interim, required for the operation of the calomel.

Asthma.—The spasmodic forms of asthma are frequently relieved by the timely use of *dioscorein*. It will occasionally be found to operate satisfactorily in combination with small doses of antimony.

As various complications are found to coexist with this malady, other remedies, in connection with this drug, will be indicated, such as *stramonium*, *silphium gummiferum*, *symplocarpus foetidus*, *belladonna*, chloroform or ether. The fluid extract of *lobelia in-*

flata in conjunction with *dioscorea villosa* will often be found highly beneficial.

Pertussis.—Belladonna, *dioscorea*, and nitric acid will, in suitable doses, be found highly satisfactory in the treatment of most cases of whooping-cough. Allow the patient strong coffee, and also freely to drink a tea made of the dried leaves of *castanea vesca*.

Many other diseases dependent upon a morbid condition of the nerves of the spine, and uterus, might be mentioned, for the relief of which *dioscorea* has its advocates.

PREPARATION.

Dioscorein - Dose, 1 to 6 Grains.

RUMEX CRISPUS.

(*Yellow Dock, Dry Dock, Sour Dock, etc.*)

BY W. COULSON BUCKLEY, M. D.

Rumex belongs to a Linnæan genus of the Class Hexandria, Order Trigynia. Natural Order, Polygonaceæ, the *Buckwheat Tribe*. Plants with "alternate leaves, stipules sheathing round the stem above the leaves."

GENERIC CHARACTER.—*Rumex* from *rumex* a spear, has "calyx three leaved; three valve-like petals, converging; stigmas many cleft; one-seeded; seeds naked, three-sided, sometimes called *field sorrel*." "Weed-like herbs with small, greenish flowers, in racemes or panicles." From *crispo* "to curl" "*curled*" "*crisp*."

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—*Crispus*, (Yellow Dock) has "lanceolate leaves, waved, acute, the lower oblong, subcordate; pedicles twice longer than the calyx; valves broad-ovate, cordate each bearing a grain. "A well known plant found growing along road-sides, about old dwellings, in fence corners and throughout the United States. It is also found in Canada. "Genera 33.—Species 690." The *rhubarb* of the shops, the common *sheep sorrel* of the fields and the *garden rhubarb* or *pie plant* are plants belonging to the Natural Order Polygonaceæ, as does the *Rumex*, and the *Sorrel* is of the same genus.

PROPERTIES.—Many plants of this Order contain oxalic acid, which imparts to them a tart, pleasant taste. The leaf stalks of the pie-plant and the seeds of the buckwheat are well-known articles of diet. The leaves of yellow dock as well as those of some other species of *Rumex* are edible, and are, when young, used as a table dish formed as that of Spinach; being laxative are a useful article of food in constipation of the bowels and in torpid liver, and also in scurvy. The roots are used in dyeing; the coloring matter contained in them is yellow. A peculiar principle to which the name *rumicin* has been given together with *resin*, extractive matter, phosphates, lime, *malates*, etc., are said to exist in the plant. *The seeds are like the root, astringent, but less bitter.

PHYSIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES.

Rumex C. besides operating on the economy as a laxative, stimulates the kidneys and causes an increased flow of urine. Its local effect is that of an astringent. It is said to possess a property, which when introduced into the blood, effects such changes as to render it highly worthy of the title of prophylactic of disease, particularly in that form known as *scurvy*.

EFFECTS IN DISEASE.

The terms alterative, tonic, astringent, etc., which are applied to this and many other remedies to express the degree and quality of their therapeutical action, frequently mean *nothing* in so far as these qualities are manifested by them in pathological conditions of the body; for it is a well known fact that a so called tonic may act as a tonic under one condition of the system and as something else under another. What then becomes of the "*tonic*" effect of the medicine? It is a lamentable fact that many physicians, persons of a considerable education, and who *should* know better, prescribe indefinitely, remedies they are accustomed to call "*tonic*" until in many cases their poor patients are "*toniced*" into eternity, and then they wonder why the medicine did not "*cure*." The reason, which never entered their heads, is, that medicines are "*tonic*," "*cathartic*," "*diuretic*," &c., conditionally, only,—they are what they are by virtue of certain conditions of the system present at the time of their administration.

* See U. S. Dispensatory, 1860.

To illustrate: take a patient in the early and febrile stage of a remittent, or continued fever and give your "tonics" of cinchona, iron, gentian, quassia, &c., in the usual doses and mark what the result will be—your patient will not only not be improved, but will be made worse—more weakened; but, give first, a medicine whose quality will increase secretion, excretion or elimination of effete matters, such as veratrum viride, aconite, the neutral salts and the like, until you have reduced the force and frequency of the pulse to nearly the natural conditions, until you have normal functional activity in the various secretory and excretory organs; then, you will have a condition of body in which there is simply debility,—an atonic condition; now, will be applicable, the remedies you were taught to consider "tonic"—now, they will not deceive you in your expected results; here you may prescribe any one of the so called tonics mentioned above, and it will not fail to do good; of course one may answer a better purpose than another, according to the peculiar circumstances of the patient and the particular nature of the action of the medicine in the blood.

If the case be one of malarial fever, quinine, or cinchona with the alkaline sulphites or acids would be required, according to indications, but if simply one of debility, without specific *blood poisoning*, any one of the simple bitter tonics with or without iron as the case may demand, would be sufficient in the way of a tonic medicine, and would certainly act as such; there is no question or chance about it. But who has not seen, to their sorrow, physicians trying day after day to strengthen their patients with doses of barks and iron, and the poor sufferer all the time growing worse from the administration of these (to them by reason of their condition) nauseous and irritating drugs.

I have known physicians in such cases to say "it is of no use to give any more medicine, we will abandon them to die," (fortunately for the patient) and sometimes nature unassisted, when no longer crippled, reacts and fans the vital spark and thus life gains the ascendancy. Now, in the name of suffering humanity, what does this action of physicians mean? It simply means lazy recklessness, and as a consequence ignorance of the most culpable kind. Men of this character, if fit for any vocation,

should change their business. It will *never* do to attempt to apply the square rule to the application of remedies in the treatment of disease; this attempt, has many times been made during the past three thousand years, but its application has never been found to obtain in this department of nature, and it never can.

It was not our purpose in the beginning of the article to find fault with any physician or class of physicians, nor was it a pre-meditated idea with us to make a preliminary to this treatise of the length to which it has gone, but it has been the natural result of the course of our thoughts connected with the penning of it. If our remarks shall be the means of causing one physician or even *one* thoughtful individual outside of our ranks to consider well the matter of the action and application of remedies to the treatment of disease we shall feel well repaid for our time and trouble.

The notions of the *Therapeutical Employment* of the particular remedy in question are as varied as are the notions or opinions concerning that of many other plants and it may be asked, what is the cause of this discrepancy? I will try to answer as briefly as possible. In the *first* place the growth and perfection of plants are dependent upon so many and varied conditions of season, soil, etc., that it is next to an impossibility to obtain two specimens to correspond exactly, or nearly in many instances, in remedial power. *Second*, the time of gathering, mode of preparing and preserving for use are conditions which greatly affect their sensible and medical qualities, hence we hear of one physician saying that a remedy is worthless for many purposes, and another that it is useful in some instances, and others that it is good for nothing in medicine. A *third* cause of this discrepancy and one which constitutes a very fatal error with physicians is a fault that we in part described above, which, is that they are apt to overlook the true condition of the system, at the time of prescribing; in other words, they fail to recognize the exact departure from functional and organic health; and this being the case it is no wonder that their experience in the use of remedies is found to differ. If a certain remedy be indicated because of its direct relation to an organ or tissue, and because consequently it is opposed to a disease or process of disease in these parts (and we hold that this

is the only *rational* and *scientific* rule for government in the selection of a remedy for the treatment of diseased conditions of the body), that particular remedy bearing this special quality or relation, perfect in all its essential qualities, must in the nature of things be selected in order to directly, easily and quickly, relieve the patient and restore health.

The round-about treatment which to an extent all are as yet, from a want of sufficient knowledge of pathology and therapeutics, necessitated to employ, is unsatisfactory in the extreme compared with direct medication—and is a source of great annoyance and regret to physicians who clearly appreciate the extent of knowledge in reference to specific treatment. The remarks we have just made in reference to the discrepancy of opinion among medical men concerning the practical uses of drugs, are particularly applicable to the plant in question.

To it has been ascribed the power of “curing” almost all the chronic syphilitic, rheumatic, scrofulic, and herpetic diseases in our old nosology and how many more I have neither the time nor inclination, now, to hunt up.

And, by some it has been denied to have any, or but very few of these curative powers. Others again assert that it possesses alterative qualities in a high degree, in other and more expressive language, it contributes greatly to those ultimate transformations concerned in the process of waste and repair. Hence, in all cases of chronic disease, where the fault lies in the nutrition of the body, this remedy will be found upon trial, to meet many important indications; accordingly, it has been said, “it is good for dyspepsia” and, “it is good for scrofula,” etc., which is all very true, but it should be fully understood that its only office in these affections is that of improving the condition of the functions which govern the processes of waste and nutrition.

Taking care then, to have the herb of good quality and seeing that a good preparation of it is had, physicians may expect to find in the yellow dock, a remedy of first importance in the cure of many phases of disorders which result from faulty conditions of the functions of digestion, both primary and secondary. Also, in the treatment of affections of “impure blood,” when of a chronic nature, this remedy will not disappoint any reasonable

expectations from its use. Dr. Paine states that he has accomplished much with the use of this remedy in glandular affections, given sometimes with iron and sometimes with the hypophosphites, cod liver oil, etc. It has been used with success in catarrh of the larynx and bronchia, and also in some forms of diarrhoea. Will some one obtain some tests in relation to the value of this remedy in affections of the skin and mucous tissues and report? The best preparations in my judgment, are the tincture and the fluid extract, prepared from the recently dried root.

A concentrated tincture of it, may be made as follows:—Take of the root in moderately fine powder, eight troy ounces, alcohol 70 per cent. sixteen fluid ounces and prepare by percolation, the doses of which will be, from ten drops to one fluid drachm. *Fluid Extract*.—Dose, about the same. *Solid Extract*.—Dose, from one eighth to two grains. *Rumicin*.—Dose, the same as that of the solid extract. The dose of either preparation may be repeated every 2, 3, or 4 hours, according to the requirements of the case.

GASTRITIS.

BY J. R. VIRDIN, M. D.

Miss E. P. a young lady about 20 years of age, who resided on one of the Islands of Port Royal River, where bilious or remittent fever not unfrequently prevails during the summer months, was taken sick last August with a fever of that character. She had for many months previous to that time been subject to distressing attacks of what was designated as dyspepsia. The location being inconvenient for the visit of a physician, the treatment of her case had been mostly domestic emetics and the sulph. quinine relied on with occasional saline cathartics. Having frequent returns of fever with much gastric distress, she was brought into this city last January to obtain medical treatment. On examination of her case, the conclusion arrived at, was that she was laboring under chronic gastritis. Neither food nor medicines could be retained, her pulse quick and feeble with much emaciation.

She was so weak as not to be able to sit up in bed without support. After repeated efforts to vomit, a small portion of mucous fluid was brought up of an unpleasant odor, which carried the suspicion that there was an ulcer in the stomach. The treatment resorted to was the administration of one-half of a grain of acetate morphine, made into a pill with a crumb of bread, to be repeated every 8th hour, a little milk and lime-water was allowed *pro re nata*. A few drops of old brandy in a dessert-spoon of cold water, when nature seemed to call for stimulation was permitted. Great caution was required at first in introducing only small portions of any fluid into the sensitive stomach; as it became stronger, larger quantities were retained and other nutriment adapted to the condition of the patient permitted. The minute pill was now rejected. After long perseverance in the above treatment the condition of the patient was evidently much improved, which gave her friends some hope of her final recovery. Untoward symptoms would occasionally arise, which seemed to retard that much wished for condition. Excessive sweating became meantime troublesome, but yielded to the use of the Acid. Sulp. Aromaticum. Oxalate of Cerium was resorted to for several weeks apparently with benefit, then Iodoform was tried which had a decided soothing effect in allaying mucous irritation, which was all through this tedious case a troublesome symptom. The unexpected death of a valued friend caused much distress and no doubt retarded recovery for some weeks. The patient while taking the above drugs declares that she could not dispense with her morphia pill at bed-time. During the progress of this case every means of counter-irritation was resorted to, which might alleviate the sufferings of the patient or prolong life. Her condition for several months has been that of convalescence, natural appetite has returned and she partakes in moderate quantities of ordinary food, but until the 1st of the present month, she was incapable of using her lower limbs. By the persevering use of a small electrical battery and three doses of Acidum Phos. Dilutam per day, she is now able to walk about her chamber and will no doubt return to her home, should she desire to do so.—In reporting this case it is not with the supposition that there is anything remarkable about it, but to impress on the inexperienced in the South, the risk of resorting too much to the use of the Sulp.

Quinine in cases of fever where there is evidently determination to the stomach or head; too often are we called upon to report this abuse of a valuable medicine.

MILK SICKNESS AND ITS CAUSES.

BY FRANK NELSON, M. D., HAZLETON, IND.

I see in July Number of your valuable Journal, a communication from a gentleman who thinks he has discovered the cause of *Milk Sickness*, a disease heretofore known only by its symptoms and effects. I now propose very briefly to show that the cause of this terrible disease, is a species of mushroom, described by M. Richard, as poisonous, in *Dictionnaire des Drogues*, and copied in *App. U. S. Dispensatory*.

In the first place this species of fungi has been demonstrated to be poisonous and to produce the same train of symptoms as observed in the *slows*. In the second place cattle, sheep and horses are known to feed upon the agencies. In the third place, this growth bursts forth from the ground in one night's time, after a rain, preceded by a dry season, at which time, all observation proves the cattle to be in most danger of contracting this specific disease. Lastly, the flesh of cattle who have died of the disease, emits the smell of the poisonous species of Mushroom.—The peculiar feter of the breath is identical with that of the crushed mushroom, establishing the fact beyond contradiction, that the agencies are the cause of Milk Sickness. Many more facts could be adduced in proof of this position. Let these suffice for the present. The disease should be called *Mukosma*, (from two Greek words *mukas* mushroom, and *osma* smell). *Mushroom smell*, as the smell of the breath and body of one laboring under this disease is the only pathognomonic symptom which entitles it to the name.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

BY T. C. MILLER, M. D.

CARDIALGIA:—By a female patient of mine, who had labored under a severe Cardialgia for two years, was entirely cured with the Fluid Extract Gelseminum, 12 drops 4 times daily.

CRYSTALGIA:—In a case of a child one year old affected severely with Cystodynia, one drop of the Fluid Extract Gelseminum gave not only relief but a cure in 2 days.

CATARRHUS VESICÆ:—The following relieved an obstinate case in two weeks:

R	Fluid Extract Buchu,			
	"	"	Uva Ursi	ää 3 ss.
	"	"	Gelseminum	3 i. M.

S. 50 drops 5 times daily.

IRRITATIVE FEVER BY DENTITION.—Is often successfully treated with a half ounce of fresh Chlorine water to 3 fluid ounces of Fennel water and give whereof a teaspoonful every hour.

GASTRORRHŒA.—The following of great service:

R	Fluid Extract Calisaya Bark	- - -	3 ss.
	Tinct. Nux Vomica	- - -	3 ss. M.

S. 60 drops 4 times a day.

ACNE ROSACEA.—Dissolve 1 ounce pulv. Borax in a strong infusion of Gelseminum (6 ounces), and add 1 ounce of Glycerine and apply as a wash.

PHYSIOLOGICAL.—PROGRESSIVE LIFE.

In attempting an explanation of the growth, development, or change of any organized structure, it would seem necessary that an effort should be made to discover, if possible, the natural laws governing such changes.

It is not, for a moment, supposed that any rational being will accept these changes as being accidental; on the contrary, every observer perceiving a change progressing in any structure, at once seeks to discover the causes of those changes; undoubtedly they are always natural, and in conformity with some natural law; never accidental or in violation of any law.

In looking over the phenomena of nature, one great and universal law is observed as governing all things,—and this law is so wide spread, uniform, and unexceptional, that it is beyond controversy, and needs no argument for its support. The fact that all things have a birth that ushers them into existence, live to a purpose, and die, is so

universally true, that it can be accepted as the great natural law, to which all things are subject.

This fact of birth, life, and death, being the phenomenal changes that living things are so unfrequently subject to,—we can unhesitatingly accept them as having been accomplished by the force of some natural law—which but requires rational investigation to discover.

But the phenomena of change are not peculiar to living structures; all things are subject to it. The earth beneath our feet is the product of disintegration of the mountain side—that by the influences of moisture, the force of heat as well as of its antagonism cold, has been broken down into its elements, thence to be swallowed by some hungry plant, which receives from it, strength and vigor, to perform the functions that its necessities require of it, which, when completed, and there being no further service for the structure to perform, it too sinks down, dies, decays, and again becomes food for another and more beautiful resurrection, in the form of some other structure, endowed with powers and functions to perform a round of life and change and never ending duration.

The granite crust of earth, and the mountain tops are crumbling under the disintegrating hand of time; while even time itself, is subject to perpetual, never ending, ever varying change. How then, can lesser things be expected to escape death and disintegration, or the more delightful resurrection?

They do not and cannot escape it, but on the contrary, in the frequency of the round of change—exhibit not only that change is the law of nature—but that it is accomplished in conformity with natural laws. The swelling buds of spring time, the flowers and the succeeding fruits, spring forth at the command of temperature, which warms the latent germs into life and action; compelling them to send out their feelers in search of food and drink, until the wants of their nature are supplied, and the changes of their growth perfected.

But prerequisites are necessary, in order that the phenomenon of change can be effected. There must be an existence for these natural laws to work on, though on this, their work tends only towards death. The structure may with struggling energies and hungry propensities, grasp at straws, or even seize upon stronger food as it is hurried along in the current of waning life toward the pool of eternity.

The natural law never looks backward, but with a firm hold on the

present, rushes precipitately into the future, with a full knowledge of a death and a resurrection that shall follow.

But a still more important prerequisite, than that of existence is absolutely necessary to enable the ever-developing hand of change to effect its purpose; else existence would soon be changed to its last changes, and time and circumstance be compelled to cease. This important prerequisite is that existence should be possessed of a germ, endowed with the power of reproducing germs after its own type.

Now the germ of the seed that we place in the soil for development, is so fine, that it often can scarcely be preceived by the unassisted eye, and so delicate that the slightest injury may destroy it, yet, under the beneficent influences surrounding it, there springs up an animated structure, that beautifies the world for a day, and exhausts its own life in the reproduction of germs for another set of lives. Destroy this germ, and the good seed passes the changes of death and disintegration; adapt the surroundings to its requirements, and life and power result.

Matter of itself cannot do this; a creating power gave it form, organized the germ for a purpose, breathed into it the breath of life, launched it upon the trackless fields of time, to be wafted, developed, and exhausted by the ruthless hands of change, under the domination of divine law, for all time to come.

Without this germ, the only change is toward death; with it a new life is set in motion for new purposes, and new glories of the Creator are thus manifested.

An existing germ is the beginning of life; it received its birth from a progenitor, and its form is after the type given it by the Creator, when its great ancestor first received the life-inspiring breath. It continues to live by the force of external circumstances, that make or destroy as it were at their own pleasure. This newly created germ, capable of maintaining an independent existence, cannot live an hour without the aid of favorable surroundings, and when it does live, it must do so at the expense of the bodies of things that passed the noon-day of life, ere it saw the dawn, and being exhausted by their journey, are laying down their lives for the benefit of those that shall follow them.

The natural law here displayed, is that nothing can grow but by the death and disintegration of something else; all building up is by a transfer of material from one place to another. But in this transfer, the material is not transferred in the mass, but is resolved into its

elements, and reworked into plastic forms as designated by the type of creation, to which it has become subject.—*Phil. University Journal of Medicine and Surgery*, April 1871.

**A Case of Poisoning by Strychnia Successfully Treated with Bromide of Potassium; By Cephas L. Bard, M. D.
San Buenaventura, California.**

The following history of a case of poisoning by strychnia, and its successful treatment by bromide of potassium, will illustrate the wonderfully antagonistic action of these two drugs, and the efficacy of the latter as an antidote to the former;

Strychnia was placed in a sack of flour belonging to Geo. Starr, aged 35 a ranchero, living in the Canon de Santa, Barbara County, California, by some unknown enemy, during the morning of February 6, 1871. On the evening of the same day, this flour was made into cakes, some of which were eaten by Starr. A few moments afterwards his attention was called to the fact that something was wrong, by the powerful contraction of the muscles of the neck, especially the sterno-cleido-mastoids. Fully realizing his position, he at once determined to go to a neighbor's house, in reaching which he had, however, the greatest difficulty, the muscles of his legs frequently contracting with so much force that he was thrown to the ground. Sweet oil and the whites of eggs were freely given, and their use persisted in till my arrival, some hours later. No emetics were given and no vomiting whatever occurred prior to or after my arrival. The patient presented the following symptoms when I saw him; great dyspnoea; skin livid and complete coldness of entire surface of body; jaws fixed, lips retracted, the teeth covered with frothy saliva; deglutition almost impossible; mind clear. The patient was thoroughly aware of his condition. The contractions were clonic in character, but the relaxations of short duration. The mouth was only opened with the greatest difficulty, and when medicine was forced into it, the spoon was seized by the teeth. Having seen the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for October, 1870, which speaks of the bromide of potassium, and knowing that this drug excites a sedative action on the excito-motor functions of the spinal marrow by diminishing this organ, I concluded to rely upon it as an antidote. Dissolving an ounce of the salt in a cup of water, I gave the patient half of it at once, and continued its use in smaller doses for an hour or so afterwards. Its good effects were shown in diminution of the reflex excitabil-

ity, and in the relief of the spasmodic action of the muscles of the pharynx the difficulty of deglutition being consequently very much lessened. In less than thirty minutes after the administration of the first dose, complete relaxation of the whole body, accompanied by a return of warmth and by profuse perspiration, occurred; and on the following day (less than twenty-four hours from the time of taking the poison), he arose from his bed, perfectly free from any unpleasant effects of either the poison or its antidote, with the exception of paralysis of the intestines, which finally yielded to the use of the bromide.

In the case reported by Dr. Gillespie, the poisoning was produced by three grains of strychnia; but in the case just reported, a much larger quantity must have been taken, since the symptoms were more marked, and since a chemical analysis of the flour showed that it contained a large amount of strychnia. A piece of one of the cakes, of which Starr had eaten, was moreover, given to a dog, and produced death in twenty minutes. The oil, which was swallowed in large draughts prior to the administration of the bromide, acted beneficially only in my opinion, by retarding the absorption of the poison, as the symptoms at my arrival were more distressing than at any previous time. I am ignorant of any case where oil, acting as an emetic, or followed by an emetic, has been found to be a complete antidote. From my experience in this case, I am convinced that complete reliance can be placed on the power of the bromide as antidote to strychnia, and that the effects of these two drugs are as mutually antagonistic as are those of opium and belladonna.—*Medical Times*, June 1, 1871.—*Kansas City Medical Journal*, June, 1871.

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

INCREASING DRUNKENNESS IN ENGLAND.—In the Manchester district, the number of commitments to jail for drunkenness, in proportion to other offenses, was: in 1866, $26\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; in 1867, $27\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; in 1868, 29 per cent.; in 1869, 30 per cent.; 1870, 37 per cent. It might be well for medical men, who are in the habit of prescribing and encouraging the use of intoxicating drinks, to reflect whether there is any relation between this growth of intemperance and the increased use of alcohol for medicinal and dietetic purposes under professional sanction. Many of the most eminent British physicians have spent

much labor, in the last twenty years, to expose the errors and follies of the teetotalers, and prove that total abstinence is unfavorable to health. We venture to propound two inquiries, which we deem pertinent to the subject, and which may be answered by guessing: First, in view of the foregoing figures, how many persons in the Manchester district have suffered in health and life, during the last year, by the use of strong drink? Second, how many persons in the same district have suffered in health and life by drinking only water? Neither of these questions admits of a definite answer, but the endeavor to answer them suggests a third. If the claim of our profession to philanthropy be well founded, would it not be well to reserve a few tears for the victims of intemperance, and not exhaust the supply over a few individuals who are supposed to endanger their health by drinking water?—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal*, April, 1871.

POSITION OF THE HEAD DURING SLEEP.—“Should the head be elevated or upon a level with the body during sleep; or, in other words, are pillows and bolsters useful or injurious?”

The head should be in the same relative position with the body during sleep as when the person is sitting or standing. Consequently, when lying upon the back, no pillow or bolster is needed. When lying upon the side, a pillow of sufficient size to keep the head upon a line with the spine should be used. If the head is raised above the level of the body, both respiration and the circulation of the blood are interfered with in proportion to the degree of elevation. The air passes to and from the lungs, and the blood to and from the heart, in tubes contained in the neck. Now take a straight tube of any kind, and a certain pressure, will pass through it in a given time; but if you bend the tube as the tubes in the neck are bent by having the head elevated, the quantity of air or liquid which will pass through in the same time with the same pressure will be diminished, and the greater the bend the greater the obstruction. Twisting of the neck also interferes with the respiration and circulation by diminishing the capacity of the trachea and blood vessels.—*Herald of Health*.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

TOOTH WASH.—The mouth has a temperature of ninety-eight degrees, warmer than is ever experienced in the shade in the latitude of New England. It is well known that if beef, for example, be exposed in the shade during the warmest of our summer days, it will very soon begin to decompose. If we eat beef for dinner, the particles of beef

are not removed, they will frequently remain till they are softened by decomposition. In most mouths this process of decomposition is in constant progress. Ought we to be surprised that the gums and teeth against which decomposing or putrifying masses lie should become subjects of disease? Much has been said *pro* and *con* upon the use of soap with the tooth brush. My own experience, and the experience of members of my family, is highly favorable to the regular morning and evening use of soap

Castile or other good soap will answer this purpose. (Whatever is good for the hands and face is good for the teeth.) The slight unpleasant taste which soap has when we begin to use it will be unnoticed. You have observed upon the teeth a yellow deposit, sometimes a black substance near the gums. If you examine either of them with a strong microscope, you will find it all alive with animalculæ. These small animals live, keep house, and raise families of children, and die in your mouths. Nothing that can be safely introduced into the mouth checks them like soap.—*Medical Investigator*.

We would ask the writer of the above if he has examined the deposit on the teeth with a microscope for animalculæ? We do not doubt but living creatures are sometimes found in the tartar of the teeth, but it is far from being general. The importance of cleaning the teeth after each meal, however, is none the less, even if living creatures are never found in the tartar of the teeth.—*Herald of Health*.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

FOOD FOR NERVOUS DYSPEPTICS.—Dyspeptics generally should adopt the two meal a-day system, and eat nothing whatever at any other time. Let the breakfast be composed of oat-meal mush quite dry, or oat-meal cakes and fruit, or unleavened graham bread or crackers and fruit. But one kind of fruit should be eaten at a meal, and that should be fresh and well ripened. For dinner, some of the articles mentioned for breakfast may be eaten, or some kind of vegetable that best agrees with the patient may be substituted for the fruit; or, if meat is eaten, lean beef or mutton and some vegetable. No other meats allowable, and as a rule, nervous dyspeptics are better off without any meat. No butter or greasy food of any kind, sugar, salt, spices, or condiments should be used. The patient must eat very slowly and masticate his food very thoroughly. There is no rule more important than this. He should drink nothing whatever at meals, or for two hours afterward. He should not eat more than two kinds of food at a meal, and should never eat when in the least tired or excited.

Cheerful company at meals is very important, and a hearty laugh, either at or after meals, is a great aid to digestion. "Laugh and grow fat" means to laugh and cease to be a dyspeptic.—*Herald of Health*.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

Messrs. EDITORS: The case may not be without interest in relation to the *weight* of the child.

Mrs. P. Brown, of Martin county, Ind., age 43, eighth pregnancy; twins once; other children having rather large, ordinary form; weight ordinarily 130; was called May 6th; case bad; she was attended by midwife, who, becoming alarmed at the delay of the passage of shoulders, sent for me; labor was reported to have been in progress eight hours when I arrived. A female child was born; weight 20 pounds, 2 oz; patient had an attack of intermittent fever, following nine days.

Loogootee, Ind.

H. S. PARMENTER, M. D.

FISH AS AN ARTICLE OF FOOD.—Professor AGASSIZ, in his address before the Committee of the Legislature of Massachusetts, on the propagation and preservation of fishes, says, as reported in the *Boston Journal*: "The fish enters largely into the requisitions of the human system. It is a kind of food which refreshes the system, especially after intellectual fatigue. There is no other article of food that supplies the waste of the head so thoroughly as fish diet; and the evidence of it is in the fact that all the inhabitants of the sea-shores the world over are the brighter population of the country. Fish contains phosphorus to a large extent, a chemical element which the brain requires for growth and health. He would not say that an exclusive use of fish would make a blockhead a wise man, but that the brain should not be wanting in one of its essential elements."—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

BROMIDE OF AMMONIUM IN THE TREATMENT OF MENORRHAGIA.—Dr. W. W. Ogden extols (*Dominion Medical Journal*) the value of bromide of ammonium in "the excessive discharge of blood from the uterus, at or about the menstrual period, continuing longer than four or five days." His mode of treatment consists in placing the patient in an easy, recumbent position, on a hair or straw mattress, with light covering. He gives cooling drinks and a mild laxative. After the bowels are moved, he gives the bromide at once, in doses of twenty, thirty, or forty grains, according to the urgency of the case, every three hours, until three doses have been taken; then he reduces the dose to one-half,

to be continued as long as required, not neglecting such measures as are calculated to remove the cause.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Journal*, April, 1871.

HYPHOSPHITE OF SODA.—Dr. JNO. C. THOROWGOOD thinks this salt answers all the purposes of pure phosphorus as an internal remedy, and as a gradual tonic and restorer of nerve force. In cases of nervous depression and torpor, with at times, shooting neuralgic pains; or in other cases, numbness and deadness of the limbs, as from feeble circulation, the hypophosphites prove useful, and the lime or soda salt can be given according to the way in which the stomach may seem to bear the one better than the other. When anæmia is present, the citrate of iron can be added, or else the syrup of the hypophosphites of iron, or iron with quinine, can be employed. Either of these syrups will prove an active tonic, removing neuralgic pains, chest oppression, and languor of circulation in a very evident way.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

PROF. ELLIOT'S LAST PRODUCTION.—The last writing of the late Professor Elliott was done with his left hand, the right being paralyzed. It was a brief essay on blood-letting, advocating the propriety and necessity of the measure in some cases, especially of puerperal eclampsia. He states that, when last on duty in Bellevue Hospital, having directed a patient with eclampsia to be bled, the members of the members of the house staff had never seen the operation, and so he performed it himself. At the same time he cautions against the lavish use of the lancet. The paper is published in full in the *New York Medical Journal* for March.—*Pacific Med. and Surg. Jour.*, Apr. 1871.

CHLORAL IN TETANUS.—The *Journals* in Europe and America are reporting a considerable number of cases of tetanus, mostly idiopathic, treated by chloral, some of which have recovered, whilst the great majority prove fatal. An interesting case will be found in this *Journal*, which terminated favorably, reported by Dr. Cluness. The *Australian Medical Journal*, for November last, contains the report of a similar case, in which the symptoms were much relieved at first by the remedy. The patient died, however, in five days from the attack. The quantity of chloral administered during the four days of treatment was 560 grains.—*Pacific Med. and Surg., Journal*, April, 1871.

VENTILATION.—It is more difficult to ventilate a close room in summer than in winter; because in summer there are no fires to create a draft,

or to move the air; but an open fire place, or an open door, or long windows, open at the top and bottom, may be sufficient.—*Georgia Med. Companion*, March, 1871.

CHLORAL AND CEREBRAL DISEASE.—In the *Phila. Med. and Surg. Reporter*, a case is mentioned in which twenty-five grains of hydrate of chloral were taken to overcome a wakeful and nervous condition, with the effect of producing sleep, followed next morning by vertigo and disturbance of vision. A case occurred recently in this city, in which the same remedy was prescribed by a physician to a lady laboring under cerebral excitement. Under the influence of the chloral she became maniacal, and committed suicide.—*Pacific Med. and Surgical Journal*, April, 1871.

EXCITING CAUSES OF DISEASES TO BE AVOIDED.—Persons who have any reason to suspect that they are subject to disease of the heart, should scrupulously avoid any exciting cause, either mental or physical, should not engage in any occupation entailing exciting exertions upon them, and should avoid the use of tobacco, and stimulants of all kinds, as a slight affection of the heart, which might otherwise cause but little trouble for a long series of years, will speedily be developed into active existence, by the frequent repetition of exciting causes.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

CANCEROUS INOCULATION WITH THE TROCAR.—Dr. Reineke has published in Virchow's *Archiv.* (51 B'd., 3 Heft) two cases of abdominal cancer, in which paracentesis was used. Both cases ended fatally, and it was found that cancerous tumors had formed along the track of the trocar. The author considers this as a regular inoculation, and thinks, that in appropriate cases, experiments should be undertaken. The tumors here alluded to are very different from the cancerous deposits which may take place at a distance from the region principally invaded by carcinoma; they were evidently the result of direct traumatic contamination.—*Lancet.*—*Med. News and Library*, March, 1871.

INFLUENCE OF ALKALIES UPON UREA.—In some experiments made upon himself, M. Rabuteau found that, by taking 5 grammes of potass. bicarb. every day, the amount of urea has decreased from 30 to 25 grammes. Thus alkalies appear to act by lessening combustion, and he supposes them to be of very little use in glycosuria. At the dose of 5 grammes they appeared to increase the appetite, but had no diuretic action. Brown-Sequard says that Vichy water increases the appetite in

the beginning of its use, but afterwards produces often a state of weakness almost immediate.—*Gaz. Medicales.—Med. World*, July, 1871.

DEATH FROM HYDRATE OF CHLORAL.—A case was reported to the New York Pathological Society of a female, to whom, two days after abortion, thirty grains of chloral was given, followed in half an hour by a second dose. In half an hour from the second dose she died. No symptoms were noticed except coldness of the extremities after the second dose. Decomposition advanced very rapidly, though the weather was extremely cold.—*Pacific Medical and Surgical Journal*, April, 1871.

HOW TO TRAVEL FOR HEALTH.—The best mode of travel is on foot or on a saddle; the next best, is in an open carriage, or in an old-fashioned stage coach. A sea voyage, and almost any mode of traveling by water, is in general useful; but it would be a serious practical joke if any one were to advise an invalid to seek health in a railroad car.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

TREATMENT OF STRYCHNIA POISONING BY BROMIDE OF POTASSIUM.—Two cases have recently been reported, in which the bromide appears to have been successful as an antidote to strychnia—one in the *Amer. Medical Journal*, the other in the *New York Med. Journal*. In the latter case ninety grains were given every half hour till the muscles were relaxed.—*Pacific Med. and Surg., Journal*, April, 1871.

POTASSÆ CHLORAS.—At the Rudrep Hospital, Vienna, this remedy has been used by enema in cases of dysentery, with excellent results; blood ceases to appear in the dejections after the first clyster. They used potass. chloras, \mathfrak{D} i. ad. Aquæ distil. 3 ij.—*Georgia Medical Companion*, March, 1871.

CHROMIC ACID IN RINGWORM.—One or two applications of a solution of chromic acid (one drachm to the ounce of water,) has proved very efficacious in curing the disease.—*Am. Practitioner.*—*Georgia Med. Companion*, March, 1871.

PRESCRIPTION FOR OPHTHALMIA, GRANULAR LIDS.— \mathfrak{R} . Tannin 5 parts, distilled water, 20. Dissolve and add ten of gum arabic, and strain. This is a most valuable application in granular lids and other affections of the eye. In chronic varicose ophthalmia, one to three drops of creasote to one ounce of water, makes a valuable collyrium, dropped into the eye several times daily.—*Georgia Med. Com.*, April, 1871.

Editorial.

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL

Dublin, Ireland, Sept. 18, 1871.

A FEW REMARKS ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BODIES IN LONDON.

It is not our purpose to enter into the details and a careful review of all the requirements of the several Medical Examining Bodies in London, but only to give them sufficiently complete to enable the reader to institute a comparison between the English and American systems of medical education.

The Examining Bodies and Corporate Societies in London, which have the power and privilege of granting Diplomas for the Practice of Medicine or Surgery, or both, are the *University of London*, the *Royal College of Physicians*, the *Royal College of Surgeons* and the *Society of Apothecaries*.

The standard of knowledge required by the two last-named Bodies or Societies is much lower than that required by the first, viz :—*The University of London* and also somewhat lower than that required for the "Lowest Diploma" granted by the *College of Physicians*, viz : The Licentiateship. The Degrees and Diplomas granted by these several Corporate Bodies, are mentioned beneath in their order of merit :—

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—Doctor of Medicine; Master of Surgery, Bachelor of Medicine; Bachelor of Surgery.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—Fellowship of College, Election for Professional merit, in examination; Membership of College; Licentiateship of College.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—Fellowship of College; Membership of College.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES.—Licentiateship.

All the above Examining Bodies require that a candidate for their diplomas shall pass a preliminary "Arts Examination" before entering upon his medical studies. If a candidate be a graduate of any recognized University in the United Kingdom, he is exempted from any further examination in the Arts, by all the Examining Bodies except the *London University*, which will not exempt any graduate from passing their "Matriculation Examination."

The Preliminary Arts Examinations for the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians, and the Society of Apothecaries have much about the same standard. The student must be well prepared in *one Latin* and *one Greek* subject. He must have a fair knowledge of *Arithmetic, Algebra to Equations, English History and Grammar*, and the *First Book of Euclid*, and he must also satisfy his Examiners as regards *Orthography*. All these subjects are such as a young gentleman coming from School or College would be proficient in, and the number of men who fail to pass is extremely small.

Now as regards the Matriculation examination of the *London University*, it is very much harder and as a general rule, only *thirty per cent.* of the candidates are successful. The subjects are :

2 Latin Books, (different Authors); 1 Greek Author; Latin and Greek Grammars and Histories; the first four Books of Euclid with Riders; Arithmetic and Algebra to Equations; Physics; (a thorough knowledge of Garrot's Physics is required for the students to pass); and it includes Statics, Hydrostatics, Dynamics and Hydrodynamics, Optics, Acoustics, Heat, Light and Electricity, Chemistry Inorganic, excluding the Metals, English History, English language, Orthography. French or German languages, 2 Authors, and Grammars with selections from numerous Authors for translation. This examination is followed up twelve months afterwards by another in the following subjects :

Chemistry Inorganic, including Metallurgy, Physics, (same subjects as before mentioned), Botany and description of Plants, Comparative Anatomy and Zoology.

The usual number of men who pass the examinations which is called the *Scientific M. B.*, is about 30 per cent. The majority of gentlemen who enter the Profession, avoid the hard examinations of the University of London, and content themselves with obtaining the License and diploma of the Society of Apothecaries and College of Surgeons, respectively; some also obtain Licentiatehip of the College of Physicians.

The student having passed preliminary "Arts Examination" enters at a Medical School, to all of which a Hospital is attached with a complete staff of medical officers. The Medical Session commences on the 1st of October in every year and is divided into a Winter and Summer Session. During his first two years he is required to attend two courses of lectures on Anatomy, with dissection; two courses of Physiology, theoretical and practical, and to obtain a thorough knowledge of the microscopic appearance of the human tissues, and

the action of reagents (chemical) upon them, also to make injections of tissues and prepare specimens for the microscope. He has also to attend

Two courses of Lectures on the Principles and Practice of					Medicine.
"	"	"	"	"	Surgery.
One	"	"	"	"	Theoretical Chemistry. } and Chemical Physics. }
One	"	"	"	"	Practical Chemistry.
"	"	"	"	"	Forensic Medicine.
"	"	"	"	"	Materia Medica.
"	"	"	"	"	Morbid Anatomy.
"	"	"	"	"	Botany.
"	"	"	"	"	Midwifery and to conduct. } six labours. }

Also to attend the hospital practice of, and the clinical lectures given by the attached Physicians and Surgeons, and to hold the appointments of clinical clerk and clinical dresser to a Physician and a Surgeon attached to the hospital. At the end of his second year the student who is desirous of obtaining the diploma of membership of the College of Surgeons or the License of the Society of Apothecaries, passes in the former case to an examination in Anatomy and Physiology, which he calls his "First College," or in the latter case to an examination in Anatomy, Botany and Materia Medica, which he calls his "First Hall." At the end of his 4th year of study he passes to his final examination for the diploma or license or both.

For the diploma he is examined in Surgical Anatomy, and in the principles and practice of Surgery, and if he has not obtained already the Licentiatehip of the Society of Apothecaries, he is examined also in Materia Medica and in the Principles and Practice of Medicine.

For the License of the Society of Apothecaries, he is examined in principles and practice of Medicine and Midwifery, and Forensic Medicine.

For the Licentiatehip of the College of Physicians he is examined in Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery, diseases of Women and Children, Forensic Medicine and Chemistry, both theoretical and practical. But the candidate for this License is exempted from examination in Surgery, if he has already passed the examination in Surgery at the College of Surgeons.

The License of the Society of Apothecaries, is very easy to obtain. It requires a small amount of work to pass their examinations, their standard of marking being very low.

The College of Surgeons requires a fair amount of work to be done for its diploma, and a man must show a considerable amount of professional knowledge to obtain it.

The License of the College of Physicians is a good diploma, and to obtain it a candidate must do more work than for the membership of the College of Surgeons.

To graduate in Medicine at the University of London is the hardest work for the British Medical student. Having passed his two examinations in Arts and Science before mentioned, he enters upon his purely medical studies, and having attended two courses of Anatomy and Physiology, *Materia Medica* and Chemistry and 3 months Practical Pharmacy; at the end of his second Summer Session he is allowed to present himself for examination in the following subjects:

Anatomy, Physiology, *Materia Medica* and Organic Chemistry. He is expected to recognize all tissues shown to him under the microscope, also to recognize all specimens, vegetable and mineral, that may be shown to him by the examiners in *Materia Medica*, and his knowledge of Organic Chemistry is practically tested in the Laboratory. Eighteen months after the examination, provided he is 21 years of age and that he has attended the required course of Lectures, and has conducted 20 labours, and has HAD THE CARE of *Patients* in some recognized hospital or infirmary for 3 months he is allowed to proceed to his examination for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine.

He is examined in Medicine, Principles and Practice of Surgery; Surgical Anatomy; Midwifery; Diseases of Women and Children; Forensic Medicine; Testing for poisons in the Laboratory; Practical Examination of Patients in the wards of a hospital, and is required to make a diagnosis of cases in the hospital.

After two years practice the Bachelor of Medicine may proceed to take his degree of Dr. and is examined in Medicine, Logic and Moral Philosophy. In all the examinations at the University of London, a certain standard has to be attained by the candidate in all the subjects of examination, and if he fail in one subject he is rejected for all, and has to wait 6 or 12 months before he can again present himself for examination.

The Fellowship of the College of Surgeons is a first rate Surgical diploma. There are two examinations for it, both of which are very good. The first is in Anatomy and Physiology, and the second in Surgery, theoretical and practical.

To graduate in Medicine at the ancient Universities of Oxford and Cambridge is not a difficult matter, but it occupies a long time as a student is required to graduate in Arts before he proceeds to his medical studies. Comparatively few practitioners are graduates in Medicine, of these Universities

Obituary.

We regret to chronicle the death of our venerable friend, Solomon Green, M. D., which took place at his residence in Saratoga Springs, August 17th, 1871, at the advanced age of 70 years. Dr. Green was one of the oldest and most respected physicians in this section of the State, and his death has elicited a wide spread feeling of regret and sympathy.

Medical Education in America.

We invite the attention of our readers to the very able and interesting address on "Medical Education in America," a subject of vital interest to the profession, delivered June 7, 1871, before the Massachusetts Medical Society, by Prof. HENRY J. BIGELOW, M. D.—which has been recently published by Messrs. Welch, Bigelow & Co., of Cambridge, Mass. Its suggestions if followed out, would go far to elevate the tone of the profession, and cannot fail to engage the attention of all who have its best interests at heart.

Bromo Chloralum.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

Gentlemen,—There are two cases of Small Pox in the place, and I called on one of the Selectmen, and he stated that a bottle was given him, and that he had used it only for one day, and was perfectly surprised at its results; in one case, that of a man sick, and very sick,—so much so that he had not been able to sleep for the past three nights,—and that after using it—by hanging a cloth in the room—sprinkling it about his room and bedding, that at 8 o'clock last evening he called at the Pest House—and found the man very comfortable—and that he felt sleepy, that at the time he ordered him bathed with it—1 to 16,—and this morning found his man up and dressed, stating that he was so smart that he thought he should go out in the yard to-day.

The other case was so that the man was *blind*, his face being so swollen, and was at times delirious, that he ordered wet cloths saturated with it, 1 to 12,—and placed upon his face,—and this morning the inflammation had gone down, so that he could see;—is perfectly delighted with it.

L.

At the meeting of Medical Gentlemen at Montpelier, Vt. on the 11th of October, the merits of Bromo Chloralum were freely discussed, and each one who had given it a fair trial expressed themselves decidedly in its favor, and its application to a diversified class of diseases. One had used it as a gargle in Diphtheria, which is usually rather malignant in this section. Another had used it in a severe case of Quinsy, when other applications had failed; another in Leucorrhœa, another in Child-birth. It would be quite impossible to relate all that was said in its commendation, sufficient to say that all regarded it a great boon to the profession.

L.

[Copy.] CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, ROCHESTER, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1871.

In Board of Health, Sept. 29, 1871.

By COMMISSIONER AIKENHEAD :

Resolved, That having tested and tried the Bromo Chloralum, non-poisonous disinfectant, and this Board being satisfied of its utility as a disinfecting agent, do hereby recommend the health inspectors to use and recommend the same to those having occasion to purify any offensive, poisonous or noxious odors and gases in and about any dwellings, barns, stables, drains, kitchens, cellars, water closets, &c. The foregoing is a true copy from the minutes.

[Seal.]

WM. F. MORRISON, *City Clerk*.

Errata.

August—No. 8, p. 252.—for “Notherland” read “Motherland.”

“ “ “ 253 “ “Nosse” “ “Mosse.”

“ “ “ “ “1.192.201” “192.201.”

Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

Journal of Materia Medica

DEVOTED TO

MATERIA MEDICA, PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Vol. X.]

NOVEMBER, 1871.

[No. 11.]

Communications.

HELONIAS DIOICA.

(*Unicorn.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—*Melanthaceæ*, of Lindley and Jussieu.

In the sexual system, this plant will be found in Class *Hexandria*, and Order *Trigynia*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Calyx none; corol 6-parted or 6-petalled, spreading, glandless; styles distinct; capsules 3-celled, 3-horned, fewseeded.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Flowers, greenish white, blooms in June, herbaceous, and perennial; scape leafy; racemes spiked, nodding; pedicels short, sub-bracted; filaments longer than the corol; petals linear; leaves lance-oblong. Generally diœcious. Height from one to two feet.

PART USED.—Root.

POPULAR NAMES.—*Helonias*, blazing star, false unicorn, drooping star-wort, devil's bit, etc.

HABITAT.—United States, in woodlands, meadows, and moist localities.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Tonic, alterative, diuretic, and vermifuge. In large doses it operates as emetic, and when fresh as a sialagogue.

HISTORY.—In popular practice, this plant has long been administered for a variety of maladies. The aborigines of this country used this agent for the purpose of preventing abortion. In domestic practice it has been used for its tonic, anthelmintic, and emmenagogue properties. Dr. King observes in his writings:—"The plant is said to kill cattle feeding on it; and the decoction to kill insects, bugs and lice."

Helonin is the active principle of the plant, and when taken in doses of from five to fifteen grains, it acts as an emeto-cathartic, causing griping sensation in the epigastrium, and increased activity of the salivary glands.

Analysis.—Organic Matters	-	-	-	-	95.00
Inorganic Matters	-	-	-	-	5.00
Total	-	-	-	-	100.00
Gum	-	-	-	-	0.811
Albumen	-	-	-	-	4.142
Starch	-	-	-	-	6.681
Extractive	-	-	-	-	11.483
Bitter Principle	-	-	-	-	9.501
Coloring Matter	-	-	-	-	13.657
Oleo-Resin, insoluble in Alcohol	-	-	-	-	2.742
Soluble Salts	-	-	-	-	4.221
Insoluble Salts	-	-	-	-	0.779
Lignin, &c.	-	-	-	-	45.985
Total	-	-	-	-	100.000

THERAPEUTIC EMPLOYMENT.

Diabetes.—Prof. PAINE observes in his writings, p. 61:—"In medical doses, of from one-half to one grain, it (helonin) appears to exert its power principally over the kidney, bladder, ureters, urethra, uterus, and vagina, and the assimilating organs. The disease which is most promptly influenced by this remedy, is diabetes, for which it has been used extensively, and with most happy effects. I have myself treated a large number of cases of diabetes with this drug, and have invariably found it to diminish the

quantity of saccharine matter in the urine in the course of a very few days; and by the continued use of it, in combination with cod liver oil, iron and quinine, I have been most successful in curing many bad cases of this affection. A case recently came under my treatment, of a young man, aged twenty-six, who had been troubled with diabetes for several years. His urine had been analyzed by several of the best chemists in the city, and large quantities of saccharine matter detected. By allowing the urine to evaporate in the sun upon glass, crystals of sugar would appear in a few moments, and the presence of sugar in the urine was detected by all the ordinary chemical tests. I commenced the treatment of this case, for the purpose of testing the specific power of helonin in this affection. I gave him one-half of a grain of helonin every two hours during the day, for sixteen consecutive days. The quantity of saccharine matter gradually disappeared, so that at the termination of the sixteen days very small traces of sugar could be detected in the urine. His general health had been reduced by the disease; and, for the purpose of restoring it, I gave him quinine and cod liver oil, in the proportion of one grain of quinine and one teaspoonful of cod liver oil, every three hours, for three days, when I again, resorted to the helonin, and continued it for fourteen days. By this time all traces of saccharine matter had disappeared. I then resorted again to cod liver oil and quinine, for four or five days, then gave him small doses of helonin and iron, and a nutritious diet. By this and other hygienic measures, I succeeded in entirely curing the case in four months. Several other marked cases have been treated in a similar way, and with the same result." In some cases of this malady, opium, or nux vomica, or carbonate of ammonia will be found serviceable in conjunction with helonin.

Bright's Disease.—Prof. PAINE observes:—"A gentleman, about sixty-five, who had been afflicted with Bright's disease for several years, and treated by prominent Old School physicians in this city, applied to me about two years ago. I commenced the treatment by administering one-fourth grain doses of helonin, four times a day, in one teaspoonful of best French brandy. I continued this treatment for some three or four weeks. The albumen gradually diminished, his appetite improved, his bowels became more regular, and the general condition of the system was greatly im-

proved. I then added to the helonin one-half grain of chelonin, and one grain of iron by hydrogen, or the ferrum redactum. Of this compound I administered one dose every two or three hours. I also applied an irritating plaster over the region of the kidneys, recommended an alkaline bath, nutritious diet, and out-door exercise. The patient improved rapidly for several weeks, when he was seized with intermittent fever. I then omitted the remedies, and gave quinine and iron, together with aconite, and such other remedies as are used to control the fever. Upon recovering from his attack of fever, the albumen re-appeared in the urine in large quantities, and by the use of the helonin it soon diminished. The helonin, chelonin, iron and cod liver oil, were then used, in combination and alternation, for five or six months, together with some general tonics, which resulted in a permanent cure. I mention this case, not because it is the only one I have treated with this agent, but because it is a marked case of degeneration of the kidneys in its worst form."

Amenorrhœa.—Dr. KING refers to this drug, as one much employed in the treatment of amenorrhœa. Prof. LEE observes, *Jour. Materia Medica*, v. 2, p. 128:—"The root being the only part employed, numerous trials have satisfied us that it has a specific action on the uterine organs—an alterative, regulating influence over their functions; hence, in amenorrhœa, marked by general atony and an anæmic and torpid condition of the system, this plant proves of great service; giving tone to the digestive organs, favoring nutrition and sanguification, and promoting the secretions generally." Other remedies may be administered in combination, or alternated with helonias, when indicated, in the treatment of this malady, such as the iodide of iron, savin, guaiacum, or myrrh, etc. Prof. PAINE states that helonin operates as a direct tonic and stimulant to the bladder, urethra, vagina, and uterus; hence, in cases where there is uterine, vaginal, or urethral debility, he says, the helonin, either alone or in combination with other remedies, will prove of great value.

Leucorrhœa.—Prof. LEE makes favorable mention of the use of this drug, in the treatment of leucorrhœa.

Dr. KING observes:—"It (helonias) is reputed beneficial in colic, and in atony of the generative organs. Hence, it is much

used in leucorrhœa, amenorrhœa, dysmenorrhœa, and to remove the tendency to repeated and successive miscarriages." This agent may be administered to advantage in this malady, in conjunction with alum, iodine, guaiacum, iron or cubebs.

Dyspepsia.—Helonin, Prof. PAINE says, is also a remedy of great power to stimulate the assimilating organs; hence, in many forms of dyspepsia, and other diseases of mal-assimilation, not connected with diabetes or degeneration of the kidneys, it may be used with great advantage. He adds:—"I have frequently prescribed this remedy, in combination with other remedies, in phthisis and scrofulous affections, and have almost uniformly found that it improved the appetite, and gave power and tone to the digestive apparatus, thereby aiding the use of other remedies in the cure of these diseases. It has also been used as a general tonic for atrophy of the muscles and the system generally; and I have found it beneficial in some cases, with a combination of hydrastin and iron. The most direct effect and permanent influence of this remedy are manifested on diseases of the stomach and kidneys."

Menorrhagia.—Dr. LEE states: "Its influence as a uterine tonic is also well marked in cases of atonic or passive hemorrhagia."

"Here by imparting tonicity to the muscular fibres of the organ, and by a stimulating power over the plexuses of organic nerves which supply the pelvic viscera, the exudation of blood is checked, and the predisposing as well as proximate cause of the disease removed. If it has the power of obviating sterility and impotence, as alleged by some writers, it must be by a similar mode of operation. It may be slightly aphrodisiac, but there are no well-attested facts bearing on this point. It is very probable, however, that it may, in common with senecio and other uterine tonics, produce such effects; but if it does, I have no proof of the fact, except what may be drawn from analogy. It is very probable, also, that in cases of dysmenorrhœa and liability to abortion from atony of the reproductive organs, it may prove highly advantageous by a similar mode of action, just as we find in the case of iron and other tonics which improve the general health. But, in addition to this, it would seem to be endowed, to a considerable extent, with specific properties and powers."

Albuminuria.—Dr. PAINE states that he has treated a large number of cases of albuminuria, following scarlatina, and other exanthematous fevers, with helonin, and has found it to operate with almost uniform success. An infusion of the inner bark, or flowers, of *sambucus canadensis*, alternated with helonin will prove highly beneficial in the treatment of this malady.

Dropsy.—Prof. LEE says that this remedy has been used in many cases of general dropsy with marked success, particularly in persons of lax habit, broken constitution, and general debility. The results, he thinks, are doubtless partly due to the increased tone imparted to the capillary system, and partly to its stimulating the absorbent function, an effect common to it and other bitter tonics. He attributes to the plant, however decided deobstruent properties.

Vomiting.—Dr. PORCHER, in his writings, quotes Prof. IVES as recommending the helonias as efficient in checking nausea and vomiting. Bromide of Potassium, alternated with, it will be found valuable in some instances, also, creasote, chloroform, or hydrocyanic acid.

Cough.—Dr. PORCHER states, p. 606, of his valuable work:—"The root when chewed relieves cough."

Worms.—Prof. PAINE observes, p. 63:—"Helonin is said to possess vermifuge properties, and hence it has been used in combination with chelonin and santonin, to remove parasites from the alimentary canal." To insure its success as a vermifuge, a brisk cathartic should be administered within thirty minutes after the anthelmintic has been taken. Dr. KING says:—"In doses of ten or fifteen grains of the powdered root, repeated three or four times a day, it has been found very beneficial in dyspepsia, loss of appetite, and for the removal of worms." The dose of helonin, in ordinary cases, is from one-half to one and a half grains, every two or three hours, or two or three times a day, as the case may seem to indicate. (Dr. PAYNE.)

PREPARATION.

Fluid Extract

Dose, 1 to 2 drams.

QUERCUS ALBA.

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Cupuliferae.

In the sexual system this plant belongs to Class *Monœcia*, and to Order *Polyandria*.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Staminate flowers—ament loose; calyx sub-5-cleft; corol none; stamens 5 to 10. Pistillate flowers—involucre of numerous scales united into a cup; perianth single, closely investing the ovary, 6-toothed; ovary 3-celled, 2 of them abortive; style one, stigmas 2 to 5; nut or acorn 1-celled, 1 seeded, coriaceous, surrounded at the base by the permanent indurated involucre.

SPECIFIC Character.—Leaves oblong, sinuate—pinnatifid, pubescent beneath; lobes obtuse, entire, narrowed at their bases, particularly on full-grown trees; fruit peduncled; cupule somewhat bowl-form, tubercled, flattened at the base; acorn ovate; flowers in May.

HABITAT.—North America, more particularly abundant in the Middle States.

PART USED FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSE.—Bark.

HISTORY.—This is one of the most valuable trees for timber that grows in the forests of North America, combining strength and durability. DIOSCORIDES is quoted by Dr. Stillé as saying that all oaks are astringent, and refers to the inner bark as the principal seat of this property.

Dr. S. continues his quotations as follows:—"The decoction of oak bark is useful, he (D.) remarks, in hæmoptysis and dysentery, and pessaries are made of it, when bruised, to restrain hemorrhage. Bruised oak leaves, he adds, are used to cure inflammations and fortify relaxed parts. Acorns were recommended in similar cases, but as less powerful; and many of the ancient writers speak of them as being used for food.

Pliny gives a very interesting account of the oak tree and its uses.

The Arabians chiefly describe acorns, which they say possess astringency, and that they are used for food, but are very little to

be depended upon. HIPPOCRATES includes the oak in his *Materia Medica*, and ascribes to it properties to unite recent wounds, and cure incipient inflammations. Dr. PORCHER observes in his writings, p. 305:—"In some portions of England hogs are raised almost entirely upon acorns, and with but a limited supply of grain just before killing. The farmers of Gloucestershire bestow nearly as much care upon the fruit of their oak trees as upon the produce of their orchards; they seldom sell their acorns, yet usually estimate their value at from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. per bushel." Prof. LEE observes:—"In Italy acorn oil has been used to some extent for lighting the streets."

Chemical composition of the inner bark.

Organic matter	- - - - -	5.976
Inorganic "	- - - - -	1.044
		<hr/>
		7.000
Gum and albumen	- - - - -	256.48
Starch	- - - - -	52.96
Particular principle	- - - - -	351.36
Tannin	- - - - -	270.88
Extractive matter	- - - - -	91.52
Resin	- - - - -	122.48
Soluble Salts	- - - - -	132.28
Insoluble "	- - - - -	391.72
Ligneous, &c.,	- - - - -	4830.32
		<hr/>
		7.000.00

THERAPEUTICAL EMPLOYMENT.

Diarrhœa.—An infusion of the bark, and also the roasted acorns has been recommended in atonic diarrhœa of children.

Dr. WARING advises a decoction of the bark, oz. iss; distilled water, Oiss. Boil for ten minutes, and strain. Dose, fl. oz. j.—oz. ij.

Dr. KING speaks of oak bark as having been used with advantage in obstinate chronic diarrhœa. Surg. McLAUGHLIN and others of Lynchburg, as quoted by PORCHER, report through the Surgeon-General's office, C. S. A. a favorable notice of the decoctions and syrups of the *Quercus Alba* and *Rubus Villosus* in chronic diarrhœa.

Phthisis.—By some authors this remedy is said to have been administered with advantage in phthisis. Dr. Stillé observes, v. I. p. 261;—"BARBIER was of opinion that the emanations of tan-yards counteract the miasm of intermittent fever, and a similar notion has prevailed in regard to tubercular phthisis. THACKRAH held this opinion regarding the latter affection, stating that, after careful inquiry at several tan-yards, he could not hear of a single example of this formidable disease. He quotes also the statement of Dr. DODS, that he had not been able to discover one unequivocal instance of death to have taken place in an operative tanner from phthisis, in its tubercular form, in any part of the kingdom. GEOFFROY remarked also, that the workmen employed in tan-pits are rarely attacked with intermittent fever." Acorns roasted like coffee, and prepared the same, MARX, as quoted by Prof. LEE, especially recommends in the phthisis and atrophy of infants and young children.

Hemorrhages.—M. P. PORTA, as quoted by Prof. L., thought that the astringency of the oak adapted it well to hemorrhages, especially uterine, active or passive, and he accordingly gave the extract in two or three grain pills, every two hours, and states that for three years, during which he had tried it in such cases, he had never failed. He therefore, recommends it as superior to all other astringents for the rapidity and certainty of its action.—*Revue Med.* iii, 493, 1827.) Dr. KING refers to the use of this agent in the treatment of passive hemorrhages. Dr. HAWISON is quoted as recommending a strong decoction of oak bark, containing alum in solution, as a successful remedy in epistaxis, snuffed up or injected into the nostrils.

Hooping Cough.—The acorn, roasted like coffee, has been used in decoction, in the treatment of hooping-cough. This in conjunction with the leaves of the castanea vesca, and one or two drops of the fluid extract of belladonna in each dose, three times a day will be found very efficient, in the treatment of this malady. Prof. LEE quotes HUFELAND as stating that he found an infusion of roasted acorns very successful in this disease in the Polytechnic Institution of Berlin; also, in rickets, mixed with coffee, which disguises its taste, milk and sugar being added.

Scrofula.—Dr. KING observes, p. 791: "A coffee made from

roasted acorns, has been highly recommended in the treatment of scrofula."

HUFELAND expresses himself as having unbounded confidence in acorn coffee, in the treatment of this affection. He says:—"Acorn coffee ought not to be omitted in the treatment of any scrofulous child." Bromine, or Iodine, alternated with this remedy, will be found very useful in this malady.

External Employment.—Prof. Stillé remarks, v. i. p., 260: "Decoctions and fomentations of oak bark have been used for all the purposes to which the other astringents are applied, in prolapsus of the rectum, hæmorrhoids, leucorrhœa, relaxation of the mucous membrane of the fauces, to promote the contraction of the skin over parts which have been unduly stretched, to prevent the formation of bed-sores, to heal flabby and ill-conditioned ulcers, and promote the separation and diminish the smell of gangrenous parts, and finally, as a general bath, in cases of extreme debility with flaccidity of the tissues." A bath, made from white oak-bark, is said, to be often advantageous in some cutaneous affections.

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Dose, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 Dram.
Solid Extract	- - -	" 10 to 20 Grains.
Pills	- - -	2 Grains Each.

TINCTURE OF WHITE OAK.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Two Ounces.
Diluted Alcohol	- - -	One Pint.

Dose—Half to one ounce.

COMPOUND INFUSION OF WHITE OAK.

Fluid Extract of White Oak	- -	One Ounce.
" " Blue Flag	- -	Two Drams.
" " Gentian	- -	Two Drams.
Water	- -	Seven Ounces.

Dose—Six drams. (6 dr.)

SYRUP OF WHITE OAK.

Fluid Extract	- - -	Two Ounces.
Syrup	- - -	Fourteen Ounces.

Dose—Four drams to one ounce.

GARGLE OF WHITE OAK.

Fluid Extract	One-and-a-half Ounces.
Alum	Half Dram.
Brandy	One Pint.

PTELEA TRIFOLIATA, OR SWAMP DOGWOOD.

BY I. J. M. GOSS, M. D., L. L. D., SOCIAL CIRCLE, GEORGIA.

HISTORY.—This shrub, known by the common names of Swamp Dogwood, Wafer Ash, &c., is indigenous, growing in sandy bottoms, shady moist hedges, and in rocky woods in many parts of the United States. It is abundant in river bottoms in Georgia, especially in the middle portions of the State.

The bark of the root is the part used, which has a feeble aromatic odor, and a pungent, acrid, bitter, taste. It yields its medicinal properties to Alcohol, and partially to hot water. The chemical analysis of it yields an oleo-resinous principle called Ptelein, but I do not think that it fully represents the entire properties of the *Ptelea Trifoliata*.

THERAPEUTIC ACTION.—The bark of the root of the *Ptelea* is one of our most active tonics. In large doses it is stimulant and considerably diaphoretic, and expectorant. It is also a valuable alterative, in the proper sense of that term. It excites the various eliminating functions of the system, and thereby very materially aids the system in the excretion of morbid materials. Prof. WM. PAINE states that he has used it with success in secondary syphilis. He also speaks of it as being one of our best remedies in indigestion; also a good remedy in diarrhoea. It stimulates the entire glandular system, skin and mucous tissues.

Prof. JONES and CUDDER, in their *Materia Medica*, speak of it as a valuable remedy in chronic rheumatism. As an excitant, tonic, diaphoretic and alterative, it is a valuable remedy in many chronic forms of disease attended with great debility. It is very beneficial in those cases of a depraved or cachectic habit, requiring the free use of tonics, excitants and alteratives. In chronic bronchitis and consumption I have used the tinctures of the *Ptelea*.

and *Euonymus Americanus* as tonics, combined with such other remedies as are indicated, and I have found them of great advantage.

As an anti-periodic, I have found the fluid extract, or essential tincture of *Ptelea*, the nearest to a substitute to quinia of any other article of the *Materia Medica*. During the late war, when I could not procure quinine, I used some four or six pints of the fluid extract of the *Ptelea*, and I found it to arrest the paroxysms of fever with as much certainty, and nearly as promptly, as quinine; but I noticed that relapses were not as apt to occur after the fevers had been broken with the *Ptelea*, as they were when they were suspended with quinine; in fact I do not remember a single relapse, after the use of the *Ptelea* a sufficient length of time.

I have treated a large number of cases of remittent and intermittent fever for the last four years, in many of which, from convenience, I first used quinine, and many of them relapsed; the remittent form would return in the intermittent form, and I had then to resort to the essential tincture of *Ptelea* to rid the system of the malaria. I have had cases to come from Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi, and the southern parts of Georgia, that had been long treated with quinine, with only suspension of the paroxysms for a time, but which yielded readily to the *Ptelea* given in moderate doses for a few weeks.

I give one-half \mathfrak{z} to one \mathfrak{z} of the saturated tincture every three hours until the paroxysms are suspended, then continue the medicine in doses of one oz. three times a day, for three or four weeks. In this way I have cured the most obstinate cases of chills. If the liver is enlarged, as it frequently is in long standing cases, I add to the tincture of *Ptelea*, the tincture of the *Euonymus*, equal parts, or I give a pill of Podophyllin, *Lep tandin*, *Irisin* and the extract of *Colocynth*, in small quantities, so as to excite the secretory action of the liver. I have noticed the effects of the *Ptelea* in those obstinate cases of intermittent fever, and while it suspends it very readily, it so tones up the system, that convalescence is speedy, and always complete.

HYDRATE OF CHLORAL AS A HYPNOTIC AND NERVOUS SEDATIVE.

BY X. T. BATES, M. D. EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND, OCT. 7th, 1871.

During a recent interview with Dr. T. More Madden, of Dublin, I became the recipient of several papers of professional interest, contributed by the Dr., among which was one of considerable length on the Therapeutical importance of Chloral as a Hypnotic and Nervous Sedative, especially in Gynaecological Practice. His experience with this drug has been very large, and most of his observations recorded in the paper were conducted in the Gynaecological Wards of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital, while he was Assistant to the present distinguished Master, Dr. Geo. Johnson. The remedy in Dr. Madden's hands has proven so uniform and certain in its action that I will note down for the consideration of the readers of the "*Journal of Materia Medica*," some of his observations on the use of Chloral, together with a few cases in practice.

The Dr. subdivides the effects claimed for Chloral by Liebreich, Richardson, and others as follows:—1. That it produces sleep. 2. That it brings down the animal temperature. 3. That it removes sensibility. 4. Causes muscular relaxation. 5. Acts with extreme rapidity. 6. Does not require an increased dose to produce its effects, even after long use. 7. Has no counter-indications to its employment. 8. Is not followed by any unpleasant after-effects.

But in his own experience, he says he has found the similarity of action between it and Opium, and other Narcotics to hold good in that the same dose does not continue to produce the same effect for long periods of constant use, that often in cases wherever Chloral has been used for some time, it is not only necessary to increase the dose, but that even large doses fail in their effects; moreover that there are idiosyncrasies of constitution which contra-indicate its employment, and that it will sometimes not only fail to produce sleep, but on the contrary, induce a condition of extreme nervous excitement and hyperaesthesia. He prescribes for an adult, as an anodyne, from 20 to 40 grains, though usually finds 30 grs. will act as full anodyne, and has frequently found even 10 grs. quite sufficient to cause the almost immediate cessation of violent uterine pain, and sometimes even to produce some three or four hours' sound sleep, in cases which had resisted full opiates. After cautioning against the rash use of large doses in that 2 grs of Hydrate of Chloral are equivalent in physiological value to 4 grs. of Chloroform, and referring to the muscular relaxation which Chloral produces, and

which suggested to him its employment in difficult labor arising from rigidity of the os uteri and soft parts, he goes on to give the details of several cases in which he used Chloral. I have selected the following, which are sufficient perhaps to exemplify its importance.

Odontalgia Insomnia.—E. McD., aged thirty, a woman two days previously confined of her sixth child, was in great pain from violent toothache, which prevented her from sleeping since her confinement. She was in semi febrile condition from the pain, her pulse about 100. I gave her 15 grs. of Chloral in a draught, this gave her immediate ease, and within a few minutes produced sleep, which lasted for three hours. She awoke talking incoherently for a few moments, but continued free from pain.

Insomnia—Threatened Puerperal Mania.—March 30, a woman, aged about forty, unmarried, was delivered of her second child after a natural labor, at 10 a. m. She was in great distress of mind; did not sleep for three nights; talked wildly; got out of bed and insisted on going home the day after her confinement; manifested an aversion to the child. On the evening of April 2d she took 20 grs. of Chloral, and half an hour after fell asleep, and slept for the first night since her admission into hospital, three days before delivery. Next morning she was much better.

Insomnia.—February 28th,—A. G., aged twenty-six, suffering from debility after confinement and hemorrhoids. A very nervous, excitable woman, unmarried, in a very despondent frame of mind. On the night of the 25th and 26th slept very poorly, last night did not sleep at all. When she drowns is awakened by fearful dreams; manner abrupt and peculiar; appears not far from being insane; tongue dry and covered with white fur; pulse 104; countenance pale and anxious; complains of great headache and palpitation.

R.—Chlorali hydratis,..... 3 i.
Tincturæ Valerianæ Ammoniat..... 3 iii.
Infusi Valerianæ..... 3 vi.

M.—3 i every 2 hours.

March 1st. After taking the second dose of the mixture she went to sleep; passed a good night, and awoke decidedly better. This medicine was then continued for some days with marked benefit.

Delirium Tremens.—February 10th,—I was sent for to see a young man who had been drinking hard for several days, but had stopped drinking three days ago, and did not sleep since. He was in a state of great nervous excitement; his face pale and anxious; skin cool and

moist; pulse quick, small and compressible; tongue furred and tremulous. His wife informed me that she, her servant and two friends, had passed the last couple of nights keeping him in bed, from which he was endeavoring to escape. He had taken no nourishment whatever for three days; complains of great thirst, which he had been striving to slake by copious draughts of cold water, vomited as soon as swallowed. Ordered milk and soda water in small quantities, and the following draught:—

R—Hydratis chlorali,..... grs. xxx.
Potassii bromidi,..... grs. xxx.
Aquæ camphoræ..... $\frac{3}{4}$ ii.

M.—Fiat haust.

This was given at 11 p. m., when his pulse was 106. In 15 minutes his pulse continued as before; in 30 minutes pulse 102,—fell asleep. He slept all night; awoke more tranquil and took some soup. Next night he had 20 grs of Chloral; slept well and rapidly convalesced.

Rigidity of the Os Uteri During Labour.—February 28th,—A primipara, aged twenty-two, admitted in labour, has been in labour since 10 p. m., on the 26th. On the 27th, at 11 p. m., os size of a florin, thick and rigid. On the 28th, at 8.45 p. m., the os being still in the same condition, though in the meantime she had been treated in the ordinary manner, by warm baths, opiates, and solution of tartar-emetic, I resolved to try the effect of chloral, and ordered the following draught, which was given at 8.50 p. m., her pulse being then 100:—

R—Hydratis chlorali,..... grs. xl.
Mel despumat..... 3 i,
Aquæ cinnamomi,..... $\frac{3}{4}$ i.

M.—Fiat haust, statim sumend.

At 9 p. m.—Asleep, pulse 90. 9.10 p. m.—Asleep, pulse 88. 9.38 p. m.,—Roused up for a moment, had a pain, and settled down again. 10 p. m.—Asleep, not very soundly, was examined; no change in the condition of the os uteri. 10.15 p. m.—Having been restless and in pain for the last quarter of an hour, was ordered a second draught, with 20 grains of chloral; in all one drachm in one hour and twenty minutes. After taking draught, she at once fell asleep again. 11 p. m.,—Still sleeping soundly. At 3 a. m. she woke up, and at 4.30 a. m. she was delivered.

Besides the foregoing, several cases of *Irritable Bladder* are noted, wherein though this drug produced no permanent improvement, yet its temporary beneficial influence was very marked, in that it completely

subdued the irritability of the urinary mucous membranes, and the spasmodic action of the bladder, enabling patient to retain her water for several hours, and to sleep soundly at night, during the period of the Chloral Medication. A mixture containing 10 grains to the dose every hour, constituted treatment in one case.

In a case of *Incontinence of Urine*, given in 10 grains quantities every hour, it had the effect of completely combatting the incontinence of urine, and allowing patient to retain water all night, so long as the medicine was continued, though no longer. In *AFTER PAINS* its action was generally prompt and satisfactory.

In conclusion Dr. Madden observes :—In the great majority of cases the chloral allayed nervous excitement, relieved pain, or produced sleep with great certainty and remarkable rapidity. I have, moreover, observed the fact that the sleep produced by Chloral more closely resembles natural sleep than that induced by opium or any other narcotics; the patients were generally free from any unpleasant after-effects, such as those produced by opiates, and informed me that they had slept pleasantly, as well as soundly, and awoke refreshed by their night's repose.

ON THE USE OF CONIUM AND QUININE IN TREATMENT OF MIASMATIC FEVERS.

Extract from letter of J. T. JOHNSON, M. D., Cato, Crawford Co. Kansas :—

"The Extract of Conium has been a favorite medicine with me for some years past. Not long since I procured a supply of TILDEN & Co's Solid Extract of Conium, and find it more efficacious than any I have hitherto used. As this is a new country, and miasmatic diseases prevail to a great extent, there is of course a large quantity of Quinine used. A favorite recipe of mine is to take equal weights of Sulph. Quinine and Extract Conii, (solid),—make into 4 grain pills—giving one every 3 hours. This pill can be safely given throughout the febrile excitement,—the Conium calming the nervous irritation peculiar to miasmatic fevers, while the Quinine, aided by an occasional dose of Fluid Extract Gelseminum, speedily subdues the febrile excitement, leaving the patient convalescent.

ON ONE OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH FROM
CHLOROFORM.

Read before the New York Journal Association.

BY ANDREW H. SMITH, M. D., OF NEW YORK.

MR. PRESIDENT: I will not absorb the time of the Society in an elaborate view of the different theories which have been advanced as to the modes in which chloroform produces death. The subject is a hackneyed one, and is doubtless familiar to all present. The facts involved are stated with great clearness and precision by Dr. Squibb, in a paper read before the State Dental Society at its last session. He states that the narcotism of chloroform may be symmetrical or asymmetrical; it invades the different systems and organs in a regularly progressive order, the heart and respiratory organs resisting its influence the longest. But, if carried too far, even these may succumb, and death is the result. On the other hand, when asymmetrical, some organs are affected to a disproportionate degree, and if they be organs whose function is immediately necessary to life, as the respiratory muscles or the heart, a fatal result may take place before the general narcotism is developed.

It is generally stated that in much the larger proportion of cases, death results from cardiac syncope. Dr. Snow considers this to have been the case in all but six of fifty cases quoted by him in which the symptoms were more or less fully described. In nearly every instance however, the only evidence that the heart had ceased to act was, that the pulse could not be felt at the wrist. But this test cannot be otherwise than fallacious, for it is a matter of daily observation that the heart may continue its action for some time after the radial pulse can no longer be perceived.

In two cases in which death from chloroform occurred under my observation, respiration ceased suddenly before unconsciousness had taken place, the action of the heart continuing for a considerable time. In several instances I have unintentionally destroyed animals with chloroform while practising vivisection, and in every case the pulsations of the heart continued after respiration had ceased. Dr. Snow seems to have observed this more frequently in animals than he is disposed to admit its occurrence in the human subject, but the numerous instances in which impending death is averted by artificial respiration seem to point to the breathing as the function first impaired in a considerable proportion of cases in man as well as in the lower animals.

But the object of this paper is to call attention to a mode of death

which differs both from cardiac syncope and from paralysis of the respiratory muscles. I refer to *direct local anæsthesia of the lungs*.

It is well known that the movements of respiration, although to some extent under the influence of the will, are chiefly reflex in their character. This is shown by the fact that they continue during the unconsciousness of sleep, of anæsthesia, or of coma, and that beyond a certain point they are not under the control of the individual. Now, every reflex movement requires as its antecedent an impression upon a sensitive nerve. In this case the impression is chiefly upon the pulmonary nerves, and results from an excess of carbonic acid and a deficiency of oxygen in the blood. That the origin of the movements is peripheral and not central is shown by the fact that, that section of the pneumogastriacs greatly reduces the frequency of the respiration, which would not be the case if the unærated blood acted directly upon the respiratory centres as strychnia does upon the cord.

The character of the irritation which excites the movements of respiration may be appreciated by simply holding the breath. It is a sensation entirely peculiar, and is nature's demand for air just as hunger is nature's demand for food. By the French it is called the *besoin de respirer*, the necessity for breathing.

Now, in a certain proportion of cases, I believe that chloroform destroys life by its local anæsthetic effect upon the lung, rendering it insensible to the presence of carbonic acid, and thus removing the stimulus to respiration. The vapor of chloroform is a decided local anæsthetic, especially when applied to a mucous surface. It is well known that the senses of taste and smell are abolished at a very early stage of chloroform narcosis, and this effect is universally attributed to the local action of the chloroform. Dr. Squibb, in his paper already referred to, calls attention to this local anæsthetic effect upon the larynx as explaining the fact that the glottis does not close to prevent the passage of anæsthetic vapors as it does in the case of other irritating substances. Precisely this effect, extended to a large portion of the lung, may act, as I conceive, to prevent entirely the impression upon the nerves which is required to excite respiratory movements.

An analogous result is observed in opium narcosis, in which the sensibility of the lungs becomes more and more blunted, requiring a progressively-increasing accumulation of carbonic acid to cause the necessary stimulus to the respiratory act. Hence, we find the respiration becoming slower and slower, until it finally ceases altogether. The only difference is that, in the case of the opium, this result is brought

about secondarily through the medium of the circulation, and the lungs simply share in the general anæsthesia, while with chloroform we have, in addition, the local effect from the direct topical action of the vapor.

It is to be borne in mind that the lungs partake of the general anæsthetic effect of the chloroform to an exceptional extent, as the blood with which they are supplied is charged more highly with the anæsthetic than the blood in other portions of the body. Now, the experiments of M. Caze, of Strasbourg, show the anæsthetics act rather upon the nerve-centres. He states that a limb can be protected against the influence of chloroform inhalation by merely compressing the main artery that supplies it. Immediately on removing the pressure and restoring the circulation, the limb becomes insensible. If this be true, the lungs are evidently exposed to a disproportionate action, since the nerves are bathed by blood containing a much larger proportion of the anæsthetic than is contained in the general circulation. If we now add to this the effect which chloroform-vapor exerts upon the nerves by its direct local action independently of the circulation, the surprise is that perfect insensibility is not the rule rather than the exception.

It occasionally happens in opium narcosis that the anæsthetic effect upon the lungs is developed out of proportion to the narcotic action upon the sensorium, so that the respiration will become alarmingly slow while the patient is still sufficiently conscious to quicken his breathing at the command of the physician. A case of this kind is described by Dr. J. C. Smith, in the *Medical Record* for January 2d:—"Some five years ago I saw a case in which the result occurred from the use of chloroform. I was giving the chloroform very slowly, the object being merely to allay pain, when suddenly the patient ceased to breathe, without having been at any time wholly unconscious. Very much alarmed, I was about to begin artificial respiration when I observed that the eyelids were trembling, and that the general expression of the countenance was not that of profound unconsciousness. Laying my hand roughly upon the shoulder of the patient, I said in a sharp, quick tone, '*Breathe,*' and to my great relief she responded with a full inspiration. But there seemed to be no disposition to repeat the effort voluntarily, and for several minutes each respiratory act was performed only at my command. I waited several times, as long as I dared to, to see whether she would not breathe spontaneously, and carried the experiment to the limit of what seemed to me justifiable. I do not assert that this would have proved a fatal case if left to itself, still less if the usual restorative treatment had been resorted to; on the contrary, I think it probable in this case, when the accumulation of carbonic acid in the

blood had reached a certain point, the anæsthesia of the lung would have been overcome and respiration would have been resumed. Still, the case differed so decidedly from those of momentary suspension of breathing which we often see when ether is employed, that I think the experiment would have been full of danger.

I may add that about two years ago I endeavored to determine by experiment what would be the effect of producing within the lungs the peculiar partial anæsthesia which results from the application of tincture of aconite to the surface. With this view I caused an animal to inhale for a moment the tincture of aconite in the form of spray, using Richardson's nebulizer. The respiration became at once very much embarrassed, and death resulted after a few hours. But I was unable to separate to my own satisfaction the local action upon the lungs from the general toxic effect of the drug, which may have been absorbed through the pulmonary membrane in quantity sufficient to produce death.

Death from pulmonary anæsthesia would be more likely to result from a large amount of vapor being inhaled at a single inspiration. This may readily occur when the chloroform is poured upon a towel folded in a number of thicknesses and already warmed by the breath of the patient and by contact with the face. If the towel is formed into a cone, the cone may be well filled with the almost pure chloroform vapor. When this is suddenly applied to the face of the patient, the first inspiration must include an undue proportion of the anæsthetic. Hence, an inhaler like that of Dr. Sayre, in which the chloroform is vaporized by the current of air drawn through it, would afford much greater safety. —*New York Medical Journal.*—*The American Journal of Dental Science.*

EXTRACTING TEETH DURING PREGNANCY.

BY DR. H. E. ROBINSON.

It seems to be laid down as a rule by nearly all surgical writers, and indeed is held in practice by nearly all surgeons and dentists, that teeth should not be extracted during pregnancy. Now we are all aware that the uterus is closely connected by the system with the teeth, and that this connection seems more sensitive when the uterus is in a gravid state. But it has always seemed to me that this fact was but another argument in favor of the extraction of the aching tooth, especially when the pain is caused by chronic periodontitis. I am not in favor of indis-

criminate extraction of teeth, but will strive as hard as any dentist to save a tooth whenever possible. This should be done in all cases. But for periodontitis, I know of no surer cure than extraction. In the past two years I have had five patients who were pregnant, come to me afflicted with inflammation of the periosteum, some of whom had been kept awake for two nights, and in each case I extracted the offending tooth without any bad result whatever. In the last case, the woman was within about a month of her time for delivery, but she was suffering so acutely from the diseased tooth that I very carefully extracted it, and all was well. Therefore I conclude that where no other remedy is possible, extraction is better than prolonged suffering.—*The American Journal of Dental Science.*

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

SOUP, AND HOW TO MAKE IT.—It is, I think, much to be regretted that good soup is unknown in nine houses out of ten; for the wishy-washy, greasy liquid which ignorant cooks, who have no knowledge of the science of cookery, impose upon their employers, is not soup at all; and one might just as well imbibe the water in which the dishes of yesterday's dinner were washed. The unwilling guest is too often forced to partake of a nauseous and indigestible composition, which annoys the palate, and against which the stomach will revolt. How much better it would be to commence dinner with some plainly dressed but wholesome fish, or a thick soup, which can be achieved by any tolerable cook; but to make a good clear soup requires experience and skill, and a certain amount of knowledge of the chemistry of gastronomy. A good clear soup is a *chef d'œuvre*, and is infallibly the work of a culinary artist of no mean order. Stock is the basis of all soups; it is the soul of cookery; and it is hardly to be expected that one with but a smattering of culinary knowledge (most cooks know less of cookery than anything else) should yet be able to understand its most vital principle. Thick soups are useful for luncheon; and when a substantial meal is required, they are better calculated to satisfy the appetite; whereas thin soups, to a certain extent, only excite it. Hence, when other things are to follow, and it is not intended to choke off the guest at first, a clear soup tends to stimulate the appetite to further gastronomic delights, whilst a thick soup is calculated to cause repletion, and so to prevent the

palate from enjoying those pleasures which the art of cookery, with a lavish hand, presents to its consideration.

The skilful amalgamation of materials, aided by knowledge of the essential principles of culinary chemistry, constitutes a judicious combination of subtle essences and mysterious flavors, all evident, but none predominating—an harmonious and delicate mixture of vegetable and animal juices, which the enraptured epicure denominates soup. The stock, the corner-stone of the fabric, should be made of good fresh meat; the stock-pot should be gradually heated to the boiling point, and vegetables, etc., added; it should be well skimmed and cold water should be occasionally thrown in to facilitate the rising of the scum, as this process of skimming is essential to the making of good soup. The kind of meat used should be either leg or shin of beef; the meat should be cut off the bone, and the bone should be chopped. The stock-pot should not be allowed to boil again, but should be gently simmered for five or six hours; and by this process the full flavor is extracted both from the meat and from the vegetables, and a highly nourishing and clear stock will be the result. Stock, too, should always be made the day before it is required to be used for soup, as the fat will, when cold, settle upon the top of it in cakes, which are very easily removed. Bones of fowls, game, rabbits, or meat trimmings, may be used in addition to leg or shin of beef in the preparation of stock; but to make it for white soups it must necessarily be white, and so veal, fowl, and rabbit only are admissible in making white stock. I think that soup is worthy of occupying a high place in the scale of culinary education, and a prominent position in the study of dietetics, when it is remembered that the essence of meat is rendered more palatable and digestible when mixed with other essences and flavors.

It is surely much to be regretted that there is nothing like the *pot-au-feu* of French in our domestic economy, and it has been well said that at least in low life, we are coarse feeders. Rarely is meat used for making soup amongst the poor; and it never occurs to the mistress of a small household to cook her joint in such a way that it produces a tureen of nourishing and palatable soup as well as a substantial *piece de resistance* for the family dinner. Hence we see the soup question developed only in its two extremes—the very high class and the very low class soups; for the decoction with which the ignorant “*cordons bleus*” in many houses favors her employers is not soup at all. We do not understand the grateful nature of the light, economical soups which are so prevalent abroad; and one of our national failings is the neglect of the study of domestic economy. To make good, strong soup, a certain

amount of animal matter is necessary, while judgment must stand at the prow, and skill must hold the helm. Under the circumstances, a shin of beef weighing six or seven pounds will produce from four to five quarts of good strong soup. What I mean is, that soup is rich in animal substances in just such a proportion as animal matter is used in making it. Nothing comes from nothing; and if only a small quantity of meat is used in making stock, the soup will be rich in those materials which are derived from animal matter only in a small proportion. *Food Journal.—The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette.*

OPIMUM SMOKING IN SAN FRANCISCO.—A scene at a public house for this purpose is described by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as we reprint it below:—

"The place is rented by the proprietor to a Chinaman named Ah Fook for \$500 per month, who again sublets various parts. We entered several apartments, and a stranger sight cannot be imagined. The first we visited was about ten feet in height, sixteen feet in length, and twelve feet in breadth; the only light or ventilation of any kind was by the door, and it was so dark that a candle had to be lighted to enable us to inspect it. This was a lodging-house—Heaven save the mark!—and kept by a man named Ah Wa, who for ten cents a night accommodates his countrymen with lodging; and in this place every night nineteen men sleep. The beds, if they may be so termed, are nothing but a series of shelves with a straw mat on each, and here, night after night, these poor wretches pass away their time smoking opium and sleeping off its pernicious effects, as the proprietor for five cents extra supplies this drug, the smoking of which occupies the chief part of the time of the inhabitants of McEvoy's building, when not engaged in their ordinary occupation of thieving, for Mr. Woodruff informed us that there was not one that frequented that place who was not a thief.

"We watched the operation of preparing and smoking a pipe of opium. The smoker has brought to him a tray on which is a light, a pipe, and a small piece of wire, and a jar of pure opium; the wire is dipped into the opium, then applied to the candle and cooked until the perfume arising therefrom suits the smoker's ideas. It is then carefully kneaded on the surface of the pipe, the top of the bowl being covered, with the exception of a small hole in the centre, and when the correct consistency has been gained by a delicate manipulation with the wire, the opium is worked up into a ball about the size of a small pea, and inserted through the lid of the pipe; the smoker then reclines, and placing the bowl of the pipe against the candle, draws away at the stem for a

few seconds—the pipe is empty, and the performance repeated until the smoker becomes stupified and falls back in a doze to revel in the sensations arising from the narcotic. Its effects are described as being of a most exhilarating kind, and if only inhaled in small quantities it animates the spirits and gives energy to the intellectual powers, and is then followed by a state of quiet, pleasant languor until sleep succeeds; but it is only by increasing the dose that these effects are reproduced. The soporific effects are then of longer duration and the symptoms of debility are greater, gradually but surely leading to softening of the brain.”—*The Druggists Circular and Chemical Gazette.*

SYRUP OF SANTONATE OF SODA.—A good vermifuge syrup is prepared by the following formula:

Santonate of Soda.....30 grains.
 Distilled water.....1 ounce.
 Syrup.....18 fluid ounces.

Boil the syrup till it is concentrated to 32° B'mé. Remove from the fire, let it cool a few minutes, then add the salt dissolved in the water.

You obtain 18 fluid ounces of a transparent syrup, without a bitter taste, of 35° when cold. Each fluid ounce contains one grain of santonine. I have been preparing this sprup, for nine years, in the drug store of Mr. Font.

Santonate of Soda.

Santoninic Acid in fine powder.....2 oz.
 Caustic Soda Lye, pure.....4 fluid oz.
 Distilled Water.....12 fluid oz.

Put all in a flask, and heat in a sand-bath, or over a stove, to 70° or 80°, until the solution of the santonine is complete, which usually requires about half an hour; then remove from the fire, and when cold it is conveniently evaporated. In cooling, prismatic crystals with an oblique base are obtained, containing 54 per cent. of santonine.

When the solution is evaporated until a strong pellicle is formed, on cooling it is converted into a mass of acicular crystals of a pearly aspect, which contain 60 per cent. of santonine.

The santonate of soda is soluble in $1\frac{1}{2}$ its weight of water (20° C.), and has a slightly bitter taste.—J. Donde in the *Journal of Pharmacy*.
 —*Druggists' Circular and Chem. Gazette.*

SYRUPUS ASSAFETIDÆ COMPOSITUS.—Allow me to call your attention to a formula for a syrup I have for a number of years been in the habit of preparing, to obviate the great objection felt by most patients to the

disagreeable smell and taste of assafetida, and which has prevented to a great extent the more general use of this valuable drug. The formula I find to answer the purpose effectually, at the same time its medicinal qualities are enhanced by combination with syrup of wild cherry, possessing the valuable therapeutic properties of both.

R. Infusi Pruni Virginianæ.....	Oj.
Assafetidæ.....	℥j.
Sacch. Albi.....	℥xxiv.
Magnes. Carb.....	℥ij.

Rub the assafetida and magnesia, with the infusion gradually added so as to make a uniform mixture, and filter; to this, transferred to a bottle, add the sugar and agitate occasionally until it is dissolved. As a result we have a handsome syrup which does not differ in appearance from the syrup of wild cherry.

The property possessed by the volatile oils of bitter almonds, cherry laurel leaves, bark of wild cherry, etc., containing hydrocyanic acid, of removing the odor of assafetida has long been known, and advantage taken of this property by M. Maheir, a French pharmacist, to remove the odor from mortars and bottles with which it came in contact; but I am unaware that the fact has been applied to its administration as a medical agent.—J. J. RAMBO, in the *Journal of Pharmacy*.

SOLUBLE HYPOPHOSPHITE OF IRON.—By ROB. F. FAIRTHORNE. I find that when hypophosphite of iron is added to a concentrated solution of citrate of ammonia it readily dissolves after being heated, forming a green solution. This, upon evaporation, leaves an olive-colored salt in scales. I make it by the following formula:

R. Ferri hypophosphitis.....	3 vj.
Acidi Citrici.....	3 iv. ʒij.
Liq. Ammon. fort q. s. ad sat.	

Pulverize the citric acid and saturate by addition of the ammonia. Mix the hypophosphite of iron with this in a flask, and add ammonia until the mixture, which is of a yellow color, becomes dark olive, or until it is neutral to test paper. Pour into a capsule and evaporate until it assumes a syrupy consistence, stirring to assist desiccation. Then set aside in a dry place until it solidifies. When quite hard break into small pieces and put into a bottle. As thus prepared, it has a pleasant slightly acid taste. It is very soluble in water, and will be found an eligible preparation for dispensing in the form of syrup, elixir, or pill.

The above quantities produce one ounce and a half of the soluble hypophosphite of iron, and the preparation therefore contains 50 per cent. of the common hypophosphite.—*Drug. Cir. & Chem. Gazette*.

Editorial.

Case of Cellulo-Cutaneous Erysipelas.

BY I. A. WATSON, M. D., GROVETON, N. H.

Patient Mrs. A. B., aged about forty should judge. She is the mother of several children, and generally healthy and robust. Sept. 23d, called in the evening to see her and found erysipelas of the cellulo-cutaneous variety, about right eye and nose. The parts about the eye were swollen so much that she could not see with the right eye, and was somewhat extended down the side of the nose. Ordered :

R Potass. Nit.
Plumbi Acet.
Cinchon. Pulv.,.....aa. $\frac{3}{4}$
Ail. Alcohol,Oj.—M.

The above to be constantly applied with cloths. Gave Dover's powder to produce sleep.

Sept. 30th, found patient no better. Sept. 25th, erysipelas extended to the right ear, and to the other eye. Ordered the entire surface to be painted three times a day with Tinct. Ferri. Mur. Gare Tinct. Ferri. Mur. and quinine internally. Temperature in axilla 105° F. Sept. 26, patient failing and erysipelas extended to left ear and over the forehead. Treatment continued; temperature in axilla 107° F. Sept. 27; treatment continued with,—

R—Spt. Etheris Nit.,..... $\frac{3}{4}$ j.
Tr. Digitalis,.....3j.
Alcohol, $\frac{3}{4}$ jss.—M.

Teaspoonful every six hours. Temperature 109° F. Patient does not take much notice of anything, and answers questions with difficulty. Sept. 28th, temperature 99° F. The erysipelas has nearly subsided, and patient talks quite freely. Of the last R she said, "Every dose went all over me, even to my toes. Sept. 29th, found her sitting up and having her head combed while the bed was being made.

I think the height to which the temperature ran, and its sudden fall of ten degrees in twenty-four hours, and the result recovery, make this a remarkable case. I have never seen a case where the thermometer indicated a change of ten degrees in twenty-four hours, and recovery take place; and here let me say parenthetically that I regard the

thermometer as most valuable in diagnosis and prognosis, and should be loath to consent to practice medicine without it.

Non-Poisonous vs. Poisonous Disinfectants.

MESSRS. TILDEN & CO :

My attention has been called to a circular which I herewith enclose, presenting the claims of a French preparation called *Girondin* and which attempts to cast some imputation upon your new disinfectant Bromo-Chloralum, claiming it failed in some experiment which was made with it. I have used your article in a great variety of cases with the utmost satisfaction, and would cheerfully add my testimony to that of many others who have used it with like success. One bad feature in this circular is an evident attempt to deceive the reader into an impression, which a critical reading does not convey; and another is the attempt to sell an article by creating a prejudice against yours. Have you any knowledge of this French article?

Yours,

L. ROGERS, M. D.

With great pleasure we answer Dr. Rogers, and should we deem the matter worthy of further notice, will at another time give in detail the facts and circumstances which have been construed into a practical deception and fraud upon the profession and public.

The article called "*Girondin*" is a French article. The Patent says, "The invention consists of a combination of the following ingredients, to wit:—" "Sulphate of Zinc, Acetate of Copper and Crystallised Baryta, Phenic Acid and Scented Liquid or Essence." (Phenic acid is Carbolic acid). All these articles are poisonous in almost any proportion, and appear to be flavored or scented to cover their character. They are almost identical with the articles enumerated and recommended by one of the officers of the Sanitary Committee in a communication to a Medical Journal.

This poisonous compound, under the cover of the name of *Girondin*, is known in New York as the "Ring Compound," and as we did not happen to have any sympathy with "rings",—we certainly ought not to have expected any better treatment, but why they should omit to use their own formulæ of poisonous articles, almost identical, and which can be produced at a small cost, to use the French article at a greater cost, under another name, has never been explained, and probably never will be understood except by those inside.

The most wonderful part of this performance, which only an expert Chemist could accomplish, is, that a gallon jug of "Bromo" was furnished for examination; we were careful to test its strength before sealing the jug; in the presence of witnesses, and it tested 23° Baumé, but it was reported to test only 17.7° Baumé. Presuming there was some deception somewhere, we

sent a gentleman for the article, and it was tested in the presence of the chemist, and then stood at 20° Baumé, and when it reached our chemist it tested 20° Baumé by the same instrument formerly used, thus showing our original test of 23° was correct, and that a variation of instruments could not be set up as the cause of a decline from 23° to 17.7° in strength, or over 5 degrees in the short time that elapsed in transportation. No intelligent mind can come to but one conclusion, that there was a deliberate intention to mislead and deceive.

Since the introduction, some six months ago, of the New Disinfectant, "Bromo-Chloralum," prepared by us, it has attracted very largely the attention of the Medical Profession, and much interest has been manifested in it as a superior deodorizer and disinfectant, combining styptic, antiseptic and alterative properties, without the objections which attach to almost every agent hitherto employed for these purposes.

We have not contented ourselves with the results of a few isolated and remote experiments, but have sought and encouraged trials of the article at the hands of well known and eminent men in the profession, in a great variety of cases indicated by the wide range of its application, which reached the greater part of all the circumstances which call for the special and general uses of such an agency, especially those circumstances where poisonous and odorous agencies cannot be used with safety to patients, or immunity from the liability to serious accidents in the hands of attendants and employes.

Every Physician in extensive practice, has often felt the necessity for such an article as Bromo-Chloralum, a *non-poisonous, odorless* and harmless agent free from the dangerous presence of any metallic or other poisonous properties, admitting of free use in the hands of servants and uneducated persons, and at the same time, efficient and decided in its action.

Before presenting the Bromo-Chloralum however, to the profession and public, we had made a great variety of careful tests, while we were receiving letters from professional men and laymen showing results which we ourselves had hardly anticipated, and now we have such an accumulation of facts, as will satisfy any unbiased mind, of the real merits and value of this article over any and everything hitherto employed, when its economy, safety and adaptation to general use are considered.

That any public organization having the general health of the public in view, should give a recommendation in any sense or in any way that could be used to entrap the innocent public into the use of *rank poisons*, has been and should be commented upon with severity; it is unpardonable. Dr. Brockett in his work on Asiatic Cholera, says:—

"A French chemist prepared a secret disinfectant containing some of the corrosive salts of copper and zinc, and possessing the property of cauterizing or cooking all animal tissues with which it is brought in contact. To this preparation he has given the name of *Girondin*, for what reason, unless from its destructive properties, it would be hard to say. Its use must of

course be restricted, for it is too corrosive to be applied to clothing, to the skin, or to any sores or wounds, or to furniture."

FROM THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 1871.

Safe and Unsafe Disinfectants.—Our attention has just been called to recent experiments made by the Board of Health with various deodorizers, and particularly to a disinfecting compound called "Girondin," which was found during these experiments to be a prompt deodorizer and disinfectant. We had already noted the result arrived at in the experiments made by the Board, and referred to in its report of August 14th, and have carefully examined the "Girondin," to which our attention is called. Knowing the composition of the latter, we were prepared for the result of the experiments, and for its subsequent successful employment in deodorizing filthy and offensive streets. To this extent it may doubtless be useful, but as the greatest good to be obtained from deodorizers and disinfectants must be in populeous dwellings like our tenement houses, and in markets, slaughter-houses, jails and hospitals, as well as in eleemosynary institutions, many of which contain large numbers of children, and in some of which the idiotic and the insane are provided for, we have questioned, and still question, the propriety of distributing through the various parts of such institutions, where disinfectants may be required, a disinfecting compound known to be poisonous; and we still adhere to the opinion that a deodorizer and disinfectant, like the BROMO-CHLORALUM, which is entirely free from poisonous properties, and, if necessary, can be even safely used for the preservation of edibles, is the proper agent for employment within doors for purposes of purification and disinfection. The principal ingredient of the "Girondin" is acetate of copper, which, we need hardly say, is a virulent poison, and its scarcely less dangerous associates in the combination are phenic acid and sulphate of zinc. With the knowledge of this fact, we cannot conscientiously advise its employment by the public, and have not been able, for the same reason, to approve of its adoption by the Board of Health.

THE DANGER ATTENDING THE USE OF DEODORIZERS.—The people should not depend upon the sanitary authorities to rid the city of pestilential odors. They should discharge that important duty for themselves. Every citizen is competent to select his deodorizer by the light which has been furnished on the subject. No man with a family will be imprudent enough to choose one which fills the air with one effluvium while expelling another, or that leaves poisonous particles behind which may become mixed with food or accidentally dissolved in water used for drinking. There are various deodorizers, all of which are more or less efficient, but all of which are not equally innocuous and inodorous. Carbolic acid is esteemed a good deodorizer, but it is at the same time a potent odorizer, besides being a rank poison. Chloride of lime is hardly less offensive or less dangerous; and an article known as "Girondin," which has been virtually abandoned by Boards of Health in European cities on account of its poisonous properties, arrests putrefaction as fire or any of the corrosive acids would arrest it—by consuming the putrefying substances. None of these articles can be sprinkled in sinks or out-

houses, or employed in purifying the atmosphere of sick rooms without incurring great danger, especially where there happen to be children or ignorant nurses. The deodorizer which sensible people will select will be one that is attended by none of these dangers, and that if swallowed by accident will not poison, not even sicken.—August, 28, 1871.

A QUESTION OF VITAL SANITARY IMPORTANCE.—The Board of Health, after enumerating the streets which they say they have disinfected with fresh, slacked lime, speak of having, in other localities, used the Girondin disinfectant, which they allege proves by far the most effective. If the "Girondin," which is a secret agent, the composition of which is studiously kept from the public, be the most effective, why trust to slacked lime in any case? It is due, however, to the public that they should be apprized of the composition of this agent, that, as far as has been ascertained, contains elements of the most poisonous character, which it would be unsafe to scatter indiscriminately in the streets, and least of all in private houses. Its active disinfecting and deodorizing properties are, we learn, dependent on the presence of a deadly salt of copper, which even in a state of dilution to the extent of rendering the compound inefficient, might kill more people than it would protect from disease. Prudence, it would seem, should dictate the employment for disinfecting and deodorizing purposes of some agent that is not open to the charge or even the suspicion of being poisonous, and one that is proven to be both innocuous and inoffensive. While we have such an article manufactured at home of known ingredients, and at small cost, why should we have recourse to a foreign nostrum, the composition of which it is not considered advisable to disclose? [Sept. 1, 1871.

A VERY SIGNIFICANT CAUTION.—When there was great alarm entertained during the prevalence of yellow fever at Governor's Island, carbolic acid was freely distributed for disinfectant purposes, and notwithstanding its peculiar odor was a perpetual warning to careless and incautious people, there were several instances in which it was swallowed by mistake, and occasioned death. This was, no doubt, one of the reasons that led the Board of Health to discard it as a sanitary agent. It is unfortunate, however, that in its place they have substituted a disinfectant which is more poisonous even than carbolic acid, and less liable to be recognized, because less odorous than it. We refer to what is known as the Girondin disinfectant, the principal ingredients of which are acetate of copper, commonly though inappropriately called "distilled verdigris" and sulphate of zinc, which poisons in small doses and vomits in large ones. To render this or any other deodorizer and disinfectant efficient, it must be freely and generally employed, not only by the sanitary authorities, but by private individuals as well, and must necessarily be placed where, by inadvertence, it may become mixed with food, and, when almost colorless, may be mistaken for water. We strongly urge on the Board of Health that in all cases where they distribute this dangerous disinfectant among the people, every bottle containing it should be conspicuously labeled "*poison*," as a warning to those who can read, and over

the word "*poison*," for the benefit of those who are unlettered, there should be placed in vivid colors and in the most hideous form a skull and cross bones which are always recognized as a symbol of danger, and would instantly arrest the attention of even the most ignorant. Such precautions, though they may not serve as a protection in all cases, will undoubtedly be a warning to many who might otherwise be exposed to imminent danger by the employment of the article in question for sanitary use in their dwellings. [Sept. 7, 1871.]

The "Bromo" was introduced as a non-poisonous and odorless preparation adapted to general use, and in a communication to the Board it was stated: "Our wish is to exhibit *fairly* the great value of Bromo-Chloralum for *Hospitals, Prisons, Asylums* and other public institutions, on ships, steamboats and other vessels, and for water closets, sewers, &c."

Our idea of a proper agent was one that could be used by every body with safety. The New York Tribune referring to this subject, stated that "The deodorizing agent now employed by the Sanitary officers is a deadly poison, and cannot be left in tenement houses with safety,—as was recently illustrated in the case of a poor woman who took a dose of it under the impression that it was brandy, and died in convulsions, in a few hours."

It should be observed that any experiment to be *fair* should have been confined to *non-poisonous* articles, and to the surprise of the gentlemen in charge of the experiment this *poisonous* article was brought out and its examination and constituents refused them. It was not supposed that the experiment was simply for the adoption of another poisonous article for one that had called out public censure. Such however now appears to have been the motive.

In this instance, as well as in all others where we have had occasion to try this article as a deodorizer and disinfectant, it has performed all that was expected of it, and although it failed to convince a committee (who from the circumstances, it was evident did not intend to be convinced,) that it possessed any "remarkable properties," it forced from them the admission that its "inodorous and innocuous characteristics were very desirable for certain specific purposes." We have tried at least fifty experiments relative to the development of sulphuretted hydrogen, by it, and have never been able with the most delicate tests to detect any; on the other hand have found it to be a good absorber of that odor in extensive chemical manipulations, and we fail to see how an article can develop a gas and at the same instant absorb it.

We have never, in all the articles we have brought to the attention of

the profession, produced one which we feel so fully meets their wants, and all we ask is a fair disinterested trial at the hands of disinterested persons.

We acknowledge many and repeated favorable notices of the Press, and regret that our space will not allow us to give them in full, especially as most of them contain sanitary suggestions of importance.

Among those referred to, are the following :

<i>New York</i>	<i>New York</i>	<i>New York</i>
EVANGELIST,	STANDARD,	DRUGGIST'S PRICE CURRENT
INDEPENDENT,	EVENING MAIL,	<i>Brooklyn</i>
EVENING EXPRESS,	GLOBE,	EAGLE,
DAILY NEWS,	NATIONAL REPUBLICAN,	UNION,
SUNDAY DISPATCH,	STAR,	<i>Boston</i>
SUNDAY MERCURY,	COURIER DES ETATS UNIS,	JOURNAL,
SUNDAY COURIER,	POMEROY'S DEMOCRAT,	TRAVELLER,
TIMES,	DAILY BULLETIN,	ADVERTISER,
WORLD,	LIBERAL CHRISTIAN,	TRANSCRIPT.
TRIBUNE,	AMERICAN INSTITUTE JOUR.	DAILY NEWS.

T. & CO.

BOOK NOTICES.

Messrs. Lindsay & Blakiston of Philadelphia, have just issued the Tenth Edition of "Wythes' Physician's Pocket Dose and Symptom Book," an admirable little manual for the general practitioner, embodying in clear succinct form, a mass of valuable information on the practical subjects suggested by the title. It is essentially a *vade mecum* for medical men, and we take pleasure in commending it to their attention.

The Seventh American Edition of "Beasley's Druggists' General Receipt Book," has also appeared,—issued by the same publishers. It contains much important and useful information as to veterinary practice, formulæ, &c.,—quite one-third of the space being devoted to that branch of the healing art. It comprises also many valuable recipes of popular preparations, characterized, under the general term of "Druggists' Nostrums"—with much miscellaneous matter of practical importance in the arts, perfumery, &c. The book is neatly bound in cloth,—its typographical execution all that could be desired, and as a volume for practical reference should be within the reach of every Druggist and Apothecary.

Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

T H E

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DEVOTED TO

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[No. 12.

Communications.

ARNICA MONTANA.

(*Leopard's Bane.*)

BY JOSEPH BATES, M. D.

NATURAL ORDER.—Asteraceæ. Some claim for it Compositæ.
In the Linnean artificial classification, this genus will be found in class Syngenesia and order Polygamia Superflua.

GENERIC CHARACTER.—Involucre hemispherical, with the leaflets equal, longer than the disk; receptacle naked; egret simple, hairy; florets of the ray often without anthers. Ray florets yellow.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.—Perennial, herbaceous, flowers a deep yellow; leaves ovate, entire, cauline ones opposite; root aromatic; the whole plant is acrid, and has a strong scent; fruit cylindrical, tapering at each end.

HABITAT.—Meadows of Europe, from the sea-shore to the limits of perpetual snow. It is likewise found in the northern parts of America and Asia.

PROPERTIES.—The leaves and flowers, in doses of gr. 5-10 are narcotic, stimulant, and diaphoretic; but in over doses, emetic and cathartic. The root is aromatic and stimulant, but in over-doses, like the leaves, it proves an acro-narcotic poison, producing vom-

iting, purging, vertigo, tetanic twitchings of the muscles, and convulsions. Some regard it as a valuable diuretic.

HISTORY.—Dr. Stillé observes, v. 1, p. 733 ;—"The first mention of this medicine was made by Tabernæmontanus, one of the most eminent botanists of the sixteenth century. He states that it was a popular remedy among the Saxons for bruises, and other injuries accompanied with extravasation of blood. Its infusion was used to prevent or remove the effects of falls (hence it was called *panacea lapsorum*, fall kraut, &c.,) to cure obstinate intermittents, rheumatic pleurisy, chronic cough, suppression of the menses, and lochia, and other affections in which pure stimulants are commonly employed."

Thomas Green, editor of the Universal Herbal, London, observes v. 1, p. 122 :—"The flowers follow the sun; goats are fond of it, but cows refuse to touch it. In Smaland they snuff the powder of the leaves up the nostrils, and smoke them as tobacco. In Germany it is esteemed a specific for resolving coagulated blood, occasioned by falls and bruises, and is recommended in obstinate chronical disorders; but it appears to be too violent in its operation for general use.

Dr. Collins, of Vienna, recommends beginning with an infusion of one drachm of the herb in flower, morning and evening, gradually increasing the dose to half an ounce, and keeping the body open. Infused in small beer, and taken as common drink, it is reported to have removed the chronical rheumatism of the loins; and in one or two doses, taken two hours before the fit, to have put a stop to intermittents of long standing. Bergins tried this infusion, and also the powder of the root, in quartan agues, without success. Allioni relates, that the palsy was cured by the flowers, but that his patients could not endure the quantity of the infusion of them which Dr. Collins above recommends; and that he never gave more than three drachms, and divided them into several doses. Villers celebrates the *Arnica* as one of the best remedies of the vegetable kingdom; as eminently diuretic and tonic; as a febrifuge, antiparalytic, and antiarthritic. He says, "that all parts of it may be used in infusion or decoction; in a dose of half a grain, or, if given in substance, less, especially at the beginning, because it is apt to discourage patients by giving them the heart-

burn." Willars exultingly exclaims,—“How many sick have I benefited, and even cured of the dropsy, by this simple remedy!” *Arnica*. This is said to be a variation of *ptarmica*, derived from Gr. *ptairo*, to sneeze. Others derive it from Gr. *ars*, (*arnos*,) a lamb, the leaf of this plant resembling the coat of the lamb.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS.—This agent possesses acrid properties. The external application of the tincture, or fluid extract of the root or flowers, manifests its irritant properties no less than its internal administration. When swallowed it causes burning in the throat, nausea, emesis, gastric pains, and anorexy. The active principle, when absorbed, accelerates the pulse and respiration, and promotes diaphoresis and diuresis. According to Pereira, it exerts a specific influence over the nervous system, causing headache, giddiness, and disturbed sleep. Sundelin considers it to be closely allied in operation to *senega*, from which, he says, it differs in its stimulating influence over the nervous system, and in its causing constipation. It augments the bronchial secretion, and in large doses impairs digestion.

Richter regarded this drug as apposite in all diseases in which the powers of life are depressed, with diminished susceptibility of the system, torpor of the secernent organs, stagnation and obstruction, with a tendency to decomposition and gangrene.

R.—regards it as peculiarly adapted to persons of a leucophlegmatic habit, but is contraindicated by augmented excitability of the nervous system, by general venous plethora, by active congestion of the brain or other important organs, and by great weakness and susceptibility of the stomach and bowels.

THERAPEUTIC USES.

Pneumonia,—*Arnica* has been very highly lauded in the treatment of typhoid pneumonia. Richter is quoted by Dr. Stillé as advising it in various typhoid conditions, as in puerperal fever, typhoid pneumonia, and in the later stages of the ordinary form of pneumonia, when expectoration is difficult and the depression of the system great (in combination with *senega*), and also in advanced stages of inflammatory affections of the brain. Dr. T. C. Miller says in a published paper of his, that he has been accustomed to use this agent for twenty-eight years. He has prescribed it in numerous diseases with good results. Typhoid pneumonia having

claimed his attention, he remarks, that in this disease, it requires oftentimes camphor, quinia, and perhaps opium, to be given in conjunction with it. In the early stages of this disease *veratrum viride*, or *aconite* may be cautiously administered in conjunction with *arnica*. Calomel, if properly timed, may frequently be of great service in the treatment of this malady, and in some instances should be alternated with *arnica*. Alimentation, as well as medication, must receive no little attention from the physician, in the treatment of this very prevalent disease. Occasional doses of carbonate of ammonia should be administered during the progress of the disease, to obviate the formation of heart-clot, which is liable to ensue in some stages.

The American Eclectic Medical Review, v. 6, p. 564, contains a paper by Mr. C. C. Balding, M. R. C. S. written for the *Lancet*;—"I am desirous of calling the attention of the profession to the value of tincture of *arnica* in the treatment of pneumonia and other acute pulmonary affections. Some years ago Mr. Mitchell Henry, then assistant surgeon at the Middlesex Hospital, wrote an article in the *Lancet* advocating its use in allaying irritative traumatic fever. A few weeks after the appearance of that article I was summoned to a man, a railway porter at this station, who had been squeezed between the buffers of two trucks. I found the sternum depressed, and consequently dislocation of sternal ends of both clavicles; he was suffering acute pain in the chest, and was almost in a state of collapse, and from his condition, I feared injury to the lungs. With difficulty I got the sternum in position, and when he rallied, which he soon did, I gave him five minims of tincture of *arnica* every four hours. To my surprise the pulse kept down; he had no febrile disturbance whatever, and in a few weeks resumed his usual occupation. It then struck me that a drug exercising such powerful effect upon the heart's action, must be of benefit in acute pneumonia, and I determined to give it a trial; and it was not long before I had an opportunity of doing so. Its good effects exceeded my hopes, and since then I have treated all my cases of acute pneumonia in adults with the remedy,—for such I must call it, for I have never known it to fail. I employ it also in acute hæmoptysis; but when there is extensive tubercular diseases of the lungs I have not found it lower the circulation."

Paralysis of the Bladder.—Dr. Meyer,* as quoted by Waring, considers that this plant is too much neglected in the treatment of paralysis of the bladder. He states a case of two months' duration, which disappeared after three days' use of the infusion of arnica; and when the disease returned at the end of two months, it again yielded to the same remedy in the same space of time.

Dr. Stillé remarks, (v. 1, p. 736), "Arnica has been recommended in various forms of peripheral *paralysis*, as of the bladder and of the auditory nerve; also in advanced periods of central paralysis, after the complete subsidence of all inflammatory and irritative phenomena."

Paralytic and Nervous Affections.—Dr. Waring observes, p. 117, (Practical Therapeutics):—"In Paralytic and nervous affections, it has attained a high character in France and Germany. Alibert speaks favorably of it. It is rarely employed internally in England. The indication of its favorable action is a pricking sensation in the paralyzed limb." Dr. T. C. Miller observes in a paper of his, published in the *Journal of Materia Medica*, New Series, v. 1, p. 380;—"In paralysis, particularly where the paralysis has been caused by mechanical influence upon the brain and spinal marrow, but the nerve structure remains intact—not by congestion or softening of the nerve structure,—and in the commencement of amaurosis, it has always proved of utility. Theilmann, in treating amaurosis, made use of an infusion of three drachms of the flowers to eight ounces of water, and gave a large spoonful at a dose, once in three hours." The employment of electricity, strychnia, ergot, or belladonna may be resorted to in the treatment of this affection in conjunction with arnica.

Dysentery.—Stoll is quoted by Stillé as saying, in the epidemic and typhoid dysentery that he knew of no remedy more justly entitled to be called a specific. Dr. Miller observes:—"In dysentery, where the disease is complicated with torpidity of the bowels, or constipation, exhaustion, or colliquative dysentery, it is peculiarly indicated." In these cases, Dr. M—— considers the root preferable to the flowers. After removing the fecal contents of the intestines, opium in some of its preparations should be administered in conjunction with arnica and astringents.

* British and For Medical Review, April, 1845.

Serous Effusion.—College Journal of Medical Science, v. 1, p. 433 :—"Mr. Hauner, of the Children's Hospital of Munich, has used arnica with success, in four cases of serous effusion; the first two were children that had pleuritic effusion. The debility was too great to justify thoracentesis. Ordinary treatment was unavailing. A complete cure was effected by arnica. Take of flowers of arnica 3 ss.—or 3 jss, to make 3 ijss. of infusion; to which 3 ss. of syr. senega is to be added; and one or two dessert-spoonfuls are to be taken every two hours. The third case was a woman of twenty years, of age. She took 3 ss. of the flowers, with similar results. The fourth a child, had arachnoidian effusion, which slowly disappeared. Perseverance is requisite, for such affections do not rapidly yield."

Amaurosis.—Dr. Waring relates the following case in his therapeutics, p. 117, taken from the Med. Chir. Rev., July 1, 1842 :—"In Amaurosis, Arnica has long been a popular remedy in Germany. M. Maunoir, of Geneva, relates an obstinate case which completely yielded to the following formula :

℞	Ext. Arnicæ,	-	-	-	-	-	3 ij.
	Strychniæ Sulph.,	-	-	-	-	-	gr. xii.
	Conf. Rosæ,	-	-	-	-	-	q. s., ft. pil. cxi.

Dose, one every night, gradually increased, until five are taken daily. The latter dose created much irritation."

Dr. Copland, in his Dictionary of Practical Medicine, v. 1, p. 66, alludes to the employment of arnica in the treatment of certain forms of amaurosis. Also on p. 67, Dr. C.— recommends camphor combined with arnica in considerable doses, as suggested by Dr. Flemming. When this malady is connected with chronic rheumatism, or atonic gout, or manifests itself in the gouty and rheumatic diathesis, Boehme, Collin Stoeller, Reinhold, Genner, and other respectable authorities, (as quoted by Copland), advise the administration of this drug. When organic lesion of the visual organ is complicated with this affection, very little, or no benefit, should be expected from this agent. Pereira's Mat. and Therapeutics by Wood, p. 594, speaks of the use of arnica in amaurosis.

Intermittent Fevers.—In certain intermittent fevers, Stoll, as quoted by Dr. Stillé, vaunted this remedy, which he used in the form of an electuary. Dr. T. C. Miller observes :—"In obstinate maltreated intermittents, with torpidity of the abdominal viscera,

and engorgement of the spleen and liver, and perhaps abdominal dropsy, and in the so-called typhoid cholera, arnica is of great value. My brother, Lewis E. Miller, uses it in conjunction with ether in those cases." Dr. King remarks, that in this complaint, arnica has proved very successful. As adjuvants of quinine in the treatment of this disease, Copland mentions arnica, and cites Aaskow as authority. Cases in which quinine cannot be tolerated, should be allowed the use of arnica, cornus florida, quassia, or iron.

Scorbutus.—Dr. Miller writes:—"passive hemorrhage, of a scorbutic character; in discharges from the respiratory or the reproductive organs; in bloody or serous extravasations caused by contusions and hurts, it is the main remedy I depend upon." Lemon juice and the use of fresh succulent vegetables should be allowed the patient, and in most cases, they will greatly accelerate the cure.

Chronic Rheumatism.—The Germans advise the use of arnica in the treatment of chronic rheumatism, as a valuable diuretic, tonic and stimulant.

Varicose Veins of Pregnant Women.—Leidbeck speaks very favorably of arnica in varicose veins of pregnant women. Dr. T. C. Miller informs us, in a paper of his, on the therapeutical properties of arnica montana, that he has derived great benefit from it in such cases. Bandaging the limbs, first moistened with an infusion, or tincture of this drug, will often be found serviceable.

Bruises, Sprains and Lacerations.—Dr. Waring observes, p. 118, of his *Ractical Therapeutics*:—"In Bruises, Sprains and Lacerations, Tincture of Arnica, used as a liniment, or diluted as a lotion, is held by many to greatly quicken the reparative process, and to afford almost immediate relief. It would, however, appear from the experience made by Dr. Garrod on ecchymoses produced by dry cupping, that the good effects derived from the Tincture as an external application depend mainly on the spirit of which it is composed. It is, nevertheless, as an external remedy, that it is chiefly employed in England." Dr. Porcher speaks of it as being very useful as a febrifuge, and to relieve pain locally applied in the form of tincture.

Epilepsy.—Complicated with intemperance.—The Eclectic Medical Journal of Pennsylvania, v. 6, p. 165, in mentioning the vari-

ous remedies employed in the treatment of this malady, suggests : "If caused by drunkenness, gelsemin, nux vomica, capsicum and arnica."

Extraction of Teeth.—The College Journal of Medical Science, in recommending means for producing local anæsthesia, v. 6, p. 190, says :—"Take of tincture of aconite, alcohol, chloroform, each one ounce; morphia six grains; mix. Rub the gum and the tooth with a finger, and then moisten two pieces of tow or wadding with the liquid, and applying them upon the two faces of the alveolar margin—as soon as, and while the patient is tranquilized (suffoque) by the chloroform, extract the tooth; no pain will be experienced.

Blows and Bruises.—The Eclectic Medical Journal of Pennsylvania, v. 6, p. 88, observes :—"Blows and Bruises.—In these accidents, the grand point in treatment is perfect rest, the relief of pain, and to prevent ecchymosis, or remove it. This is best accomplished by a lotion of arnica, or the root of black bryony in the form of a poultice. An excellent formula is,

℞ Tincture arnica,	
Tinct. aconite,	āā ʒ i.
Aqua distilled,	ʒ ij.
Muriate ammonia,	ʒ iii.—M.

Wet a piece of lint, and keep constantly applied to the part." The same Journal v 3, p. 157, observes :—"In the ecchymosis following a blow, it is a convenient remedy. We know very little of the ultimate action of any medicine or internal application, but the probability is that arnica produces anæsthesia of the cutaneous nerves, and exerts some influence on the ganglionic nerves, which surround the blood-vessels, and regulate their action, for it certainly arrests the formation of thrombus and ecchymosis. Whether this is theoretically true or not, the practical efficacy of arnica is incontestable." Waring observes, p. 118 :—"In bruises, sprains, and lacerations, Tincture of Arnica, used as a liniment, or diluted as a lotion, is held by many to greatly quicken the reparative process, and to afford almost immediate relief." Dr. Stillé observes, v. 1, p. 736 :—"In extravasations of blood, or bruises, after the tendency to inflammation has subsided, or been overcome by antiphlogistic agents, this remedy has been praised by Richter, as it

was originally by the popular voice." The author named remarks as follows :—"Sometimes powerful concussions and contusions of internal as well as external parts give rise to a state approaching paralysis both of the nerves and blood vessels, from which passive congestion and swelling are apt to arise. Under these circumstances *arnica*, given as early as possible, is decidedly the most effectual remedy, and hence arose its names of *panacea lapsorum* and *fall kraut*. But the doses used must be large."

Dr. S.— closes his remarks on this agent as follows :—" *Arnica* has also been vaunted, but on more equivocal grounds, in all kinds of *spasms* and *dropsies*, in *rheumatism* and *gout*, in passive *hemorrhages*, etc. Mr. Neligan states that he has found a tincture of the flowers useful in *nervous headache*. *Externally*, fomentations made with the flowers of *arnica*, or lotions with its tincture, have been commonly employed for the relief of bruises, and local paralyzes. The tincture with soap liniment, is said to be a very efficient local stimulant. Neumann recommends fomentation of the flowers in vinegar. Powdered *arnica* flowers are stated to have been successfully used as a dressing to arrest the progress of mortification. The dry powder is sometimes employed as an *errhine*."

PREPARATIONS.

Fluid Extract, - - - - Dose, 10 to 60 drops.

TINCTURE OF ARNICA.

Fluid Extract, - - - - Two ounces.

Diluted Alcohol, - - - - One pint.

Used externally as a liniment.

INFUSION OF ARNICA.

Fluid Extract, - - - - One ounce.

Water, - - - - One pint.

Dose,—Four to eight drams.

COMPOUND INFUSION OF ARNICA.

Fluid Extract of *Arnica*, - - - - One dram.

" " *Chamomile*, - - - - Half ounce.

" " *Peppermint*, - - - - Two drams.

Water, - - - - Nine ounces.

Dose,—Half to one ounce.

FOMENTATION OF ARNICA.

Fluid Extract of *Arnica*, - - - - Half ounce.

[Continued from August Number of Journal of Materia Medica.]

REMARKS ON THE MEDICINAL PLANTS BELONGING TO THE NORTH AMERICAN NATURAL ORDERS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO THEIR PHYSIOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

BY CHAS. A. LEE, M. D.

ORDER VII. NYPHÆACEÆ,—*Water-Lily Family*.—This order embraces aquatic herbs, with peltate, or cordate leaves, and large showy, often sweet-scented flowers. It embraces 5 genera, and 50 species, inhabiting the northern hemisphere; their general aspect is that of an endogen,—but 2 N. A. genera *Nymphaea* and *Nuphar*.

NYPHÆA, ODORATA,—*White Pond Lily Root*.—Grows in ponds, marshes and sluggish streams; flowers closed at night, open about sunrise; root has an astringent bitter taste; contains tannic and gallic acid, fecula, gum, sugar, &c.

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Astringent, demulcent, anodyne, used in bowel affections, gonorrhea, leucorrhea, scrofula, and bronchial affections, used also externally for emollient poultices, &c. Infusion of root, best mode of administration (3 i Fl. Ext. to Oi.)

NUPHAR ADVENA,—*Yellow Pond-Lily*.—Possesses similar properties, and used as a substitute, for the above,—in form of infusion and cataplasm. According to the ancients, both of these plants possess sedative, calmative and antaphrodisiac properties, but there is no reason to suppose they have any such virtues in any marked degree.

ORDER VIII. SARRACENIACEÆ,—*The Pitcher Plants*, are aquatic herbs, perennial; growing in swampy boggy places, with fibrous roots, radical leaves, with large solitary flowers.

This order embraces but 2 genera, one inhabiting North, the other South America. Of the six known species, five are confined to the Southern States, east of the Alleghany mountains; the sixth is found as far north as Newfoundland.

SARRACENIA PURPUREA,—*The Root*.—Indigenous, perennial; name derived from its discoverer,—Dr. Sarrazen of Quebec; several varieties, root contains a peculiar principle, *sarracenia*, probably an alkaloid.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—A strong decoction of the

root has recently been used extensively, and according to several observers, very usefully in the treatment of Small Pox. Its virtues, however, are very questionable, probably, altogether imaginary in this disease—effective diuretic, tonic, and slightly laxative, said to promote the secretions generally.

ORDER IX. PAPAVERACEAE.—The *Poppy Tribe* embraces 18 genera, of which 11 are natives of North America, and 19 indigenous to the Western Continent; of the 130 species belonging to the order two thirds are natives of Europe.

A narcotic property prevades the entire order. The seeds are oily, and in no degree narcotic. For example, the oil from the seeds of the *poppy* is perfectly wholesome, and nutritious, being used for food in Europe to a considerable extent.

NORTH AMERICAN GENERA.—Papaver, Argemone, Meconopsis, Sanguinaria, Chelidonium, Glaucium, Chryseis, Dendomecon, Pecnella, Platystigma, Platystemon, total 11.

SANGUINARIA CANADENSIS.—*Blood Root*.—The root contains an alkaloid, *sanguinarina*, and a resinoid matter, *sanguinarin*; dose of the former $\frac{1}{30}$ to $\frac{1}{10}$ of a grain; of the latter $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 grain as a tonic, and twice this quantity as a hepatic and alterative. (See *Parish Prac. Phar.* p. 299.)

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS.—The blood root is an acrid narcotic, and a universal stimulant of all the secretions. In large doses, a powerful narcotic sedative and fatal poison.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES AND USES.—An alterative, expectorant, deobstruent, chologogue, diuretic, emmenagogue.

Used with much advantage in chronic bronchial affections, latter stages of pneumonitis, and chronic hepatitis, amenorrhea, &c. ("See Supplement.") *Forms*, Fluid extract alkaloid, resinoid, pill, tincture, infusion of root, syrup, compound tincture, &c.

ARGEMONE MEXICANA.—*Prickly Poppy*, Gray. A Mexican plant, though found in the Southern States.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—Abounds in a milky juice, which has been used with advantage as a hydragogue in dropsies, jaundice &c., in smaller doses as an alterative in cutaneous diseases; an infusion of two drams of the seeds is emetic, in smaller doses, purgative—expressed juice of the seeds powerfully purgative, and anodyne, dose 30 drops.

ORDER X. CRUCIFERÆ.—The cruciform order of plants, is a very extensive and important one, including 173 genera, and over 1600 species; 40 genera and 216 species are native to N. A.; 100 are peculiar to the Western Continent. The order furnishes many alimentary, and nutritious articles, as the turnip, cabbage, and cauliflowers; some used as condiments, as mustard, radish, horseradish. They all possess a peculiar, acrid, volatile principle, dispersed through every part, often accompanied with an ethereal oil, abounding in sulphur. They also contain more nitrogen than other vegetables; this accounts for the ammonia developed by their putrefaction. Their seeds also abound in a fixed oil, which is expressed from some species for economical purposes, as the *rape*,

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—These are of a stimulant, and antiscorbutic character; some are very acrid, none poisonous; some prove stomachic and laxative. The roots of some possess valuable coloring material.

GENUS, NASTURTIUM,—*Water-cress*,—4 species, all stimulant, antiscorbutic and alterative; also stomachic and laxative. Seeds abound in fixed oil,—used as food, and as a relish.

DENTARIA, TOOTH-WORT,—*Pepper-Root*.—3 native species, viz: *D. Maxima*, *D. Laciniata*, and *D. Heterophylla*. Have the same constituent principles, and are endowed with similar stimulant and anti-scorbutic properties as the water-cress.

CARDAMINE,—(*Bitter-Cress*).—Two species of this plant, at least, are indigenous to North America, viz:—*C. Rhomboidea*, and *C. Rotundifolia*.

PROPERTIES,—Same as those of the last-named.

ARABIS, *Rock-Cress*. Seven species of *Arabis* are indigenous to the Western Continent, one of which, only, *A. hirsuta* is common to this country and Europe; same properties.

The *Turritis* (*Tower-Mustard*, *Barbarea* (*Winter-Cress*); *Sinapis*, introduced from Europe, *Draba*, *Whitlow-grass*, *Lepidium*, *Pepper-grass*, *Sisymbrium*, (*Hedge Mustard*), all possess limited properties.

USES.—In scurvy, as diuretics, diaphoretics, expectorants, deobstruents, and cutaneous alteratives, in form of infusion, or eaten as salad.

ORDER XI. VIOLACEÆ.—Of the *Violet Tribe* of Plants, 11 genera and about 300 species are indigenous to Northern temperate zone.

PROPERTIES.—The roots of nearly all the species are endowed with laxative and emetic properties. The plants belonging to this order in South America are shrubs, while in North America they are herbaceous.

GENUS, VIOLA,—(*The Violet*.) Thirty-three species of violet are said to be indigenous to North America.

PROPERTIES.—Emetic, expectorant, purgative; in minute doses tonic; alterative, demulcent, (contain a quaternary alkaloid, *violin*, somewhat analagous to *emetin*.)

IONIDIUM.—Two species of this plant are in the western part of the Continent. Its properties are the same as those of the *viola*. The same remark will apply to the *Solea*, of which we have one species only.

As gentle expectorant emetics for infants and young children, a syrup made of the roots of these plants, is highly useful.

ORDER XII. THE DROSERACEÆ.—(*Sundew Family*) and the (XIII) *Cystaceæ*, (*Rock-Rose Family*), contain no species, which have much interest for their medicinal properties, unless it be the *Cistus Creticus*, which yields the balsamic resinous substance, called *Labdanum*; and the *Helianthemum Canadense*, the *frost-weed*, or *rock-rose*, of which we have 5 species. The whole plant is officinal and covered with a white downy substance. It has a bitterish, astringent, slightly aromatic taste.

PROPERTIES AND USES.—Tonic, alterative, astringent, in decoction in chronic cutaneous diseases, as syphilis, secondary and tertiary, used externally and internally in scrofulous sores and swellings. The *frost-weed* was highly recommended by the late Prof. Ives, of New Haven, as a highly useful remedy in scrofulous affections,—also by Dr. Parish of Philadelphia, in the same class of diseases; used in decoction, syrup, or extract. See Pamphlet on this plant, by Dr. Tyler of New Haven, 1846. The *H. corymbosum*, has the same properties.

ORDER XIV. CAPPARIDACEÆ.—The *Caper Tribe* of Plants includes 28 genera and 350 species, mostly tropical. More acrid in their properties than the *Crucifera*, otherwise, much resemble

them. Six genera and 11 species belong to North America, viz : *Cleomella Gynandropsis*, *Cleome*, *Polanisia*, *Cristatella* and *Isomeris*,—none of them possess any marked medicinal properties.

ORDER XV. HYPERICACEÆ.—The Family of the *St. John's Wort* Tribe of Plants includes herbs, shrubs or trees with a resinous juice; embracing 13 genera and 276 species, very generally distributed, presenting a great variety in habit, and flourishing in all kinds of localities.

PROPERTIES.—The juice of many species is regarded as purgative, and febrifuge; has a resinous smell, and in some species imparts a red color to alcohol, and may be employed as a dye. The N. A. genera are *Ascyrum*, *Hypericum*, and *Elodea*. The *Hypericum*, (*St. John's-wort*,) is the most important. Of this there are 35 N. A. species.

COMPOSITION.—Its chief constituents are vol. oil, gum, resin, tannin, salts, extractive, starch, and coloring matter. The whole plant has a powerful scent when rubbed, staining the hands purple, from the great abundance of colored essential oil in the glands of the leaves and in the petals. The active principle resides in the oil.

MEDICAL PROPERTIES.—The plant is balsamic, pectoral, vulnerary, styptic, and astringent, used for healing salves in form of ointment made by simmering the leaves in lard, also in schirrosities of the breast, with bark of alder, stramonium, and bitter sweet, (*Raffinesque*.) Barton recommends an infusion of the leaves in diarrhoeas and dysenteries,—a syrup made of the flowers, with sage, is regarded by the eclectics as a specific for coughs.

PREPARATIONS.—Infusion, decoction, fluid extract, ointment, tincture.

ORDER XVI. CARYOPHYLLACEÆ.—The *Pink Family*, includes 53 genera, (11 native to N. A.,) and 1055 species, (100 native). The plants, generally, have no very active properties, being generally bland and insipid. Some are saponaceous, and a few are used in medicine. The *saponaria officinalis*, (*soap-wort*,) has been introduced from Europe; an empirical preparation is made from it, under the name of a "*common weed*," as a specific alterative in scrofulous and cutaneous affections. If it has medicinal virtues, they probably reside in a peculiar principle, *saponin*, which is also

found in several other plants of this order, viz: The *Dianthus*, *Lychnis*, and *Silene*, also in *Anagallis*, one of the *Primulacææ*. The root is the most active part; ʒ ij of it may be boiled in two quarts of water to one half, which is to be sweetened and drank freely. The inspissated juice and the fluid extract, may also be used.

Practical Notes.

BY THEODORE C. MILLER, M. D.

Tincture of Arnica in Acute Pneumonia and other Pulmonary Affections:—The old Physicians, men like BERENDS, HORN (1810) and others praised already the Arnica, particularly in inflammation with the character of torpid debility, as in typhoid Pneumonia, in the Pneumonia notha, Pneumonia senilis, by great difficulty of expectoration and collapse. THIELMANN, a German Physician, in the service of the Russian Government, praised in the "Med. Ztg. Russe. 1845, No. 12," extremely the Arnica-Flowers, in the following form:

- B Inf. flor. Arnicæ.....(e. 3 ii—iii parat.) ʒ iv.
 Liq. Ammon. anis..... 3 i. (or Vin. Ipecac. 3 i.
 Syr. Senegæ..... ʒ i.
 S. Every 2 hours one tablespoonful.

In difficulty of expectoration he added Acid Benzoic. 3 ss—i.

He tells us that "the Arnica flowers are a powerful stimulant to the vegetative nervous system, also upon the vascular system; this shows itself manly in the capillaries trough increased supply of blood and Turgor vitalis; heretrough is a strong revulsion of blood out of the central organs and the lungs effected and besides trough the stimulant is the resorption of the exsudats promoted." The Benzoic acid assists the Arnica.

I can only speak well from the Arnica during a practice of over 40 years. I am not like the Editor of the Amer. Practitioner, February, 1871, have no faith in the value of Arnica. I am with the celebrated *Virchow*, who beleives in the curative power of medicine.

The best formula, which I have used in the acute form is as follows:

R.	Fluid Ext. Arnicae,	-	-	-	-	fl. 3 2.
	"	"	Asclepias Tub.	-	-	fl. 3 i. b.
	"	"	Veratri Virid.	-	-	fl. 3 b.
	Aquæ Cinnam.	-	-	-	-	fl. 3 vi.
S.	Every two hours a tablespoonful.					

Empysema Pulmonum (vesicular).—In a very severe form I used with complete success Tincture Lobel. infl., Senegæ and Gel-seminum.

Acidum Nitricum in Morbus Brightii.—HANSON praised Nitric Acid (*Die Salpetersäure, innerlich gereicht als Heilmittel der Brightscheu Krankheit. Trier. 1843.*) FORGET, (*Bull. gén. de Thér. 1847, Tauv.*) HEIDENREICH, (*Baisr. med. Cr. Bl. 1844, No. 1 & 2.*) ANCETON, (*Gaz. des Hôp. 1853, No. 24.*) DUCHEK, (*Ztschr. Wien. Aerzte. 1858, Aug. & Sept.*) and others. (*Rh. Westph. Med. Cr. Bl. 1848, No. 23.*)

Menstruatio Difficilis.—In a very severe form I found the following of excellent effect:

R.	Tinct. Nux Vomicae,	-	-	-	-	3 i.
	"	Castorei,	-	-	-	3 i.
	"	Gelseminii,	-	-	-	3 ii.
S.	15 to 30 drops 5 times daily.					

Hydrocephalus Chronicus.—*Syr. Ferri Iodide*.—I gave in a case Syrup Iodide of Iron and Apocynum Cannabinum with great relief.

Nux Vomica in Neurosis of the Uterus.—The Nux Vomica is an excellent remedy in Neuralgia of the Uterus before and during the menstrual Period and has been praised by RADEMACHER (1810,) CARL KISSEL (1850,) BERNHARDE and others. KLOSS praises it in the Hyperaesthesia uteri by public women (*Deutsche Klinik, 1850, No. 24.*)

Nux Vomica in Acute Diarrhœa.—It was praised by Horn (*Archiv, 1810.*) G. A. RICHTER, RADEMACHER and others.

Nux Vomica in Chronic Diarrhœa.—RECAMIER has been a great advocate of it (*Arch. gén., Sept. 1823.*)

Nux Vomica in Dysentery.—HAGESTROEM was the first who praised the Nux Vomica (*Koengl. Vetenskaps. Acad. Handl. Stockholm, 1773.*) HEIN followed ODHELIUS (1775), DAHL, HUFELAND

(*H. Journal*, 2. B.) WENDT (*W., Blin. Ann. Erlangen*, 1809.) BEHREND (1830), HECKER, HORN (1810), GEDDINGS (*The North Amer. Arch. of Med. and Surg.*, Nov. 1834), MOST, MUDLER, HAUFF, SCHAIBLE (*Heidelberger Blin. Annal.* 1835), HARGENS and others.

Nux Vomica in the Liver Colic.—I used it myself for 40 years. I derived the knowledge from Dr. RADEMACHER.

Nux Vomica in Intermittent Fever.—It was highly praised by LUDOVICE (1700), WEDEL (1710), BUCHENER (1800), HARTMANN, MARCUS, HORN (1810), FRISH, IUNGHANS (*Bayle, Bibl. de Thérap. t. I. page 133*) and others.

HAHNEMANN, praised the St. Igna. bean, before he turned Homœopathist (1796), (*Stein, de faba St. Ignat., Ertanyen*, 1793), so did HAASE (*H. Commentatio de Faba St. Ign., Lipz.*, 1822).

I have seen the following prescription

R	Tinct. Nux Vomica,	- - - - -	gtts. xx.
	Water,	- - - - -	3 iv;

a teaspoonful every two hours to be given in Intermittent Fever, as a cerebro spinal stimulant. This is a prescription of a professor, and I ask any intelligent physician if this will act as cerebro-spinal stimulant. In this way it acts on the liver, as has been proved by men, like Rademacher, M. Frank, Kissel, Loeffler, Bernhardè, Biskamp and thousands of other physicians. I call this blowing sand in a students eye.

CHRONIC MENORRHAGIA.

BY WILLIAM SHARP CAMP, M. D., EVANS, CAL.

Miss L. S., aged 19. Chronic menorrhagia. Called 21st Sept., 1870, at 4 o'clock in morning. Pulse hardly perceptible, (had been flowing for 2 days, and had used applications of cold water but without effect,) gave Pulv. opii. gr. iss. ch. No. 3, one every $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Called at 7 o'clock, found patient asleep, gave the following:

R	Caulophyllin,	
	Macrotin,.....	āā gr. vi.
	Podophyllin,.....	gr. ii.
	Bi-Tart. Potass.....	gr. vi.

Ch. No. iii. Gave one and in twenty minutes the flooding eased up. I then gave an injection of tannin gr. xv. to $\frac{3}{4}$ viii of water, and injected 2 tablespoonfuls at a dose, I used it only once. I gave the powders every 4 hours. Gave x gr. of Doveri, at night.

22d. Slept well all night; continued powders.

23d. Restless and complaining of pain that coursed [from region of uterus to heart; (for which she had taken opiates for years). Discontinued powders, and gave Elixir Calisaya, Iron and Strychnia, teaspoonful ter in die, before eating.

24th. Doing well; appetite good; continued Elixir.

25th. Improving and sitting up, ordered gentle exercise.

30th. Patient has not suffered from pain since the 25th, and is able to work. I wish some of the older heads would give those Elixirs a trial, as they are all that a man can wish.

I have tried Tilden's caulophyllin in retained placenta, and I would not give one ounce of it for all the ergot in America, or anywhere else. My case of menorrhagia was treated for 6 months on ergot, and it continued to grow worse.

TOXICAL EFFECTS OF HYDRATE OF CHLORAL WHEN PERSISTENTLY USED AS A HYPNOTIC, AND FATAL RESULTS OF LARGE DOSES.

BY N. R. SMITH, M. D., BALTIMORE.

In February last a medical friend, long retired from practice, called on me for advice in regard to a singular affection of the fingers of both hands, attended with desquamation of the cuticle and superficial ulceration, especially about the borders of the nails. It was attended with pain and much morbid sensibility to touch. It was also associated with some acceleration of pulse and general *malaise*. He visited me daily for some ten days, when by the use of astringent lotions and mild digestive ointment, the local affection was overcome. He informed me that he had been taking chloral in liberal doses, as a hypnotic, for four months. He expressed to me his conviction that the disease of his fingers had resulted from the use of that medicine.

Having never observed the agent to produce such a result, I was reluctant to believe that it was the case.

Some three weeks after the cure of the local affection, I was called to attend my friend in consultation with his family physician. We found him laboring under acute bronchitis in severe degree. His res-

piration was exceedingly embarrassed, and there was a high degree of hoarse mucous r le. The bronchial tubes were filling; the pulse was about 140, and the action of the heart *extremely feeble*. By the treatment adopted, our object was to sustain the powers of life, which were rapidly failing; and to relieve the bronchial tubes of mucus. Our efforts, however, were unavailing. He died on the third day after I first saw him.

I scarcely, at the moment, entertained a suspicion that the use of chloral was concerned in producing the fatal malady of my friend, it being not at all uncommon for persons of his age (70) to succumb suddenly to such malady from ordinary causes.

Some three weeks later I accidentally met a medical friend, who expressed pleasure at the meeting, as he wished to consult me in relation to a singular affection under which his daughter, a young lady twenty-two years of age, was suffering. He described precisely the affections of the integuments of the fingers which had occurred in the case described above—erythematous inflammation, desquamation, and ulceration around the border of the nails.

Struck with the resemblance which her malady bore to that of my friend, Dr. C—, I enquired if she had been taking chloral. He replied that she had taken it as hypnotic for a month, every night, and that he had suspected that article to be the cause of her disease.

The young lady was not suffering constitutionally at that time; but about ten days after I was called to see her. I found her extremely ill. There was universal anasarca. The action of the heart was exceedingly feeble, the pulse 140, and extremely weak. Her respiration was much embarrassed, and the recumbent posture was impossible. Procuring some of the urinary secretion, I tested it with my nitric acid, and discovered a notable quantity of albumen.

I was very apprehensive of a fatal result, but immediately prescribed stimulants and diuretics, digitalis being the constituent most relied upon.

On visiting the patient, after an interval of a day, I was much surprised and gratified to find her greatly improved. Her pulse had been reduced to 90, and was greatly improved in tone. The kidneys had acted freely, and the anasarca had much abated.

Having been myself confined by illness, I did not again see her. On meeting her father some three weeks later, I was gratified to learn that she had entirely recovered.

I have knowledge of two other cases in which the same affections of the fingers resulted from the use of chloral.

Within the last ten days two deaths have occurred in Baltimore, manifestly from the toxæmia caused by an overdose of chloral. The subject of one of these accidents had been under the care of an irregular physician, and by his advice had taken chloral in ordinary doses for the relief of a painful neuralgic affection of the neck.

After the medical attendant had discontinued his visits, the patient persisted in the use of the hydrate, taking it, as I was informed by his brother, in doses of not less than half a drachm. On the day of his death he was known to have purchased three drachms of the article. How much he took during the day is unknown. In the evening he retired to his chamber, and in about twenty minutes after was found dead beside his bed. He was undressed, and the bed-clothes were turned down, but the bed was undisturbed, and it was manifest that death had arrested him at the moment that he was prepared to step into bed. The coal-oil lamp which he used was extinguished, but the glass chimney was still hot. The glass from which he had taken the chloral stood on a small table near the head of the bed, and in it were a few drops of the medicine, recognized by his brother by taste and smell. There can be no doubt, therefore, that he fell almost instantly dead from the effects of the poison.

Another instance of almost equally sudden death has recently occurred in this community. The fact is generally known, but I am not authorized to name the individual. He had been laboring under a painful affection of the head, and was attended by a homœopathic physician. On the evening of the night of his death he had a hypodermic injection of morphine practised upon him, probably in ordinary quantity. This not relieving his pain, chloral was administered. He went to bed, soon became quiet, and for some hours was left undisturbed. His perfect stillness at length attracting attention, he was found to be dead, and probably had died soon after the administration of the chloral. I have no reason to believe that the medicine was given in larger dose than has been recommended as safe by high authority, nor do I know whether he had taken it for any length of time.

Another case of which I have knowledge was that of a lady, who had undergone a severe surgical operation. As she suffered pain, and was restless, it was determined, in consultation, to give chloral by injection, so as to avoid irritating the stomach. A drachm and a half was thrown into the rectum. She at once sank into a state of insensibility, and died in some three hours. An eminent physician of Washington, who was in immediate attendance on the case, Dr. S. N. Lincoln, gave it as his opinion that she died from the effects of the chloral.

These cases are, it appears to me, amply sufficient to establish the toxical effects of this powerful agent. It is probable that its poisonous effects are exerted in two ways:—

1st. When given in a large dose, and especially when the system may have been charged with it by its previous administration, it at once overwhelms the powers of life, and causes immediate death.

Upon what organ or organs does it exert its deadly effects? It must be either upon the heart or the brain, perhaps on both. It is believed that chloral, entering into the blood, develops chloroform in that fluid, the amount developed being determined not merely by the quantity taken, but by the condition of that fluid. Chloroform, we know, when respired, exerts its influence upon both brain and heart. In the numerous cases in which it has caused death, this result has been produced by its interrupting the circulation.

2d. It appears, when given in small doses and continuously for some time, to induce a form of toxæmia similar to that caused by the continued administration of ergot. Its effects on the fingers of both hands, in the two cases related above, would justify such a belief. It is well known that animals fed on spurred rye suffer gangrene of the extremities.

In one case in which I tested the urine, albumen in notable quantity was detected. This case alone, however, establishes nothing.

Another very interesting and important inquiry is certainly suggested by the foregoing observations, crude as they are.

If chloroform, developed in the blood from chloral, is productive of such disastrous effects, primary and secondary, can the direct inspiration of chloroform be as innocuous as it is thought to be?

The profession are sufficiently aware of the fatal primary effects of chloroform in numerous instances. It has undoubtedly caused death in many cases in which it has been given with every caution in regard to quantity and mode of administration—in cases, too, where there existed no malady of brain or heart to forbid its use. In some instances it has been administered fatally, in which it has been previously treated with good result.

But I would more especially call the attention of the profession to the chronic poisoning of the blood, which I believe results from its free and repeated use.

The writer of this article has administered chloroform perhaps as often as any other surgeon in America, both in hospital and private practice, commencing its use from the time of its discovery, and its first application as an anæsthetic. Indeed, I have been constrained to use it

in many cases in which my judgement was adverse to its use, for such is the overweening confidence in its effects, that many patients refuse operations except under its influence. But the more I have used chloroform the less has my confidence become in its innocuousness. When I compare the results of my operations performed before anæsthetics were employed, with those performed during the last twenty years by the aid of chloroform, I am satisfied that unpleasant secondary results were less frequent during the past period than they have been under the use of that agent. I allude to secondary hemorrhage, pyæmia, erysipelas, and hospital gangrene.

Whoever will take the trouble to look over the medical journals and retrospects of the last two years, will discover that pyæmia or septicæmia occupies far more space in surgical records than it did before anæsthetics were so generally employed.

When chloroform is administered during the period of an hour or more, as it frequently is, it undoubtedly enters copiously into the circulation, not only powerfully impressing the brain and heart, but modifying the constitution of the blood and functions of the capillaries. If the effect of chloroform, developed from chloral in the blood, be such as I have shown on the functions of the minute vessels, causing erythema and ulceration in the extreme parts, may we not suppose that the introduction of chloroform more directly into the circulation may promote the occurrence of those results not uncommon before its use?

These suggestions, I trust, will not be regarded as impertinent from one who has practised surgery for more than half a century, without and with the anæsthetic agents.

I doubt not that, if these remarks are deemed worthy of any notice at all, they will be rejected by the majority of the profession, but I have an abiding confidence that their truth will be ultimately acknowledged.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.—*The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*.

ON THE ACTION OF LIGHT IN SMALL POX.

BY J. H. WATERS, M. B., M. C., &C.

It has long been known that chemical changes can be effected by light, both of combination and of decomposition, especially the latter, and that substances in great numbers are found more or less susceptible to its influence. Many instances might be given of this. Chlorine and hydrogen at ordinary temperatures will not combine except when acted

upon by light. In organic chemistry examples in plenty abound, as the salts of silver, etc. It is generally the luminous parts of a ray of light that effect this. In them lies the chief chemical action, and this exists even when the light is feeble, although no doubt for every kind of ray a substance might be found which, if circumstances were favorable, would be acted upon by it. This power has received the name of actinism, and is distinguishable from the heat-giving rays by being refrangible to the highest degree.

Animal and vegetable nature are peculiarly susceptible to the influence of light, their color being in a great measure dependent upon its action. If a plant is allowed to grow for any length of time in the dark the leaves and stalks are destitute of color, and it bears no seed. An animal living in the dark loses its color. Man especially is most sensitive to light, his skin becoming of a peculiar waxy hue when he is deprived of it; and when constantly exposed to its effects his face and hands get deeply colored. This is in persons with their ordinary health.

The sensibility of the skin varies greatly in different parts of the body. Weber, to prove this, applied the points of a pair of compasses to it. In some places the two points can be felt when only a few lines apart; in others they must be separated to a considerable extent to be distinguished; and it is those parts exposed constantly to the action of light that are most sensitive. This would show some connection between nerve-development and light, which as yet is not understood. Disease modifies this sensibility considerably by its action. The skin may be rendered more highly sensitive, or less so; or sensation may be altered and perverted. This, although well known to be due to some change in the nervous system, is far from being understood.

Those diseases that attack the skin, or rather that are eliminated by it, and which increase its susceptibility to light, are more dangerous when exposed to its influence. Smallpox, in particular, is more severe when light is allowed thoroughly to pervade the patient's sick-room. John, of Gaddesden, first noticed this, and proposed its exclusion from those chambers where patients suffering from this disease lay; since his time many physicians have acted upon his idea, with more or less success as they have efficiently carried it out. If white light is entirely excluded from the patient, there is no doubt the disease is less severe; by white light Dr. Waters means daylight. The room being so darkened that not even a single ray can enter it, and a candle being used instead, the affect is to arrest the disease at the papular or vesicular stage it never becomes purulent, and the skin between the vesicles is never inflamed or swollen; the liquor sanguinis is prevented from becoming

pus; we never see the large scabs of matter covering the face; there is no intense pain; even the itching is trifling; and the smell, so annoying to all concerned, is, if not altogether removed, so diminished as to be easily borne. The earlier in the disease the room is darkened, the more certain will the effects named follow; but if during the stages of primary fever or eruption the white rays of light are admitted only for a short time, it is sufficient to cause great mischief, and to nullify to an immense extent all that has been before done.

Another advantage derived from this mode of treatment is that we are able to administer medicines which it would be impossible to use without it—those that act upon the skin assist it to eliminate its poisons; the inflammatory action being less severe, we run no danger by stimulating its excretory powers in moderation.

The treatment Dr. Waters follows, in addition to the darkening of the room and quiet in bed, is to give the patient a farinaceous diet, with beef-tea and fish, ripe fruits and milk, lemonade, soda-water, barley-water, and demulcent drinks. The room to be well ventilated; this can be effected by the window remaining open under the covering that excludes the light. Tepid sponging, with frequent changes of linen. Purgatives should be given very cautiously; none but the mildest are admissible, and it is better to regulate the bowels with fruits than to use any at all; if a laxative is necessary, mild enemata are the best. From the commencement of the fever to the acumination of the pock arsenic (Fowler's solution) with iodine in small doses, the iodide of potassium, and solution of the acetate of ammonia, in a mixture, a dose every four to six hours, is in most cases well borne and does good; after this, arsenic (the solution of the arsenic of soda) with the syrup of the phosphate of iron will act better, and be a restorative tonic. Stimulants may be given if necessary; and, if sleeplessness is complained of, chloral hydrate, with or without opium or henbane, is best.

Dr. Waters finds, by reference to his notes of a great number of cases which have been under this treatment, that when the patient has been seen early—that is, before the appearance of the eruption—the general history is as follows:—

First, second, and third days.—Patient is suffering from fever, and from the well-known symptoms of small pox. Has been complaining some days. The room to be darkened; tepid sponging, etc., with the first arsenical mixture to be given; quiet in bed enjoined; milk diet, etc.

Fourth day.—Eruption is beginning to show itself; less fever, etc., but itching of the skin has commenced. No powder to be used, as this

the author finds does more harm than good; it fills up the pores of the skin, preventing perspiration, either insensible or otherwise. Cold cream, the lime liniment, or sponging to be used instead. The same mixture, etc., to be repeated.

Fifth day.—The eruption well out, with slightly inflamed base; less fever. The same treatment continued.

Sixth, seventh, and eighth days of the disease (third, fourth, and fifth of the eruption).—The eruption progresses in the ordinary manner, but the fever has nearly subsided, except in the more severe forms of the disease. Appetite returning. Same treatment continued.

Eighth, ninth, and tenth days of the disease (sixth, seventh, and eighth of the eruption).—The vesicles, instead of being converted into pustules, get less and less, their contents being absorbed, or they dry up into a brown scab, which comes away in the ordinary manner. There is no secondary fever. The patient feels quite well, eats well, and is in fact free from the disease.—*Lancet*.—*Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*.

NOTE.—The numerous instances reported of the relief given in itching of the skin in small pox cases by sponging with weak Bromo-Chloralum, suggests its trial in all such cases.

Monthly Summary

—OF—

Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

ADULTERATION OF LARD.—Some time ago, the stock of prepared lard being exhausted, a quantity was procured from a respectable pork dealer. It was beautifully white; so much so, that the writer was led to question ability to produce anything equal to it. The first trial was in preparing ointment of nitrate of mercury. The color, when the mercurial solution was added, was the reverse of citrine, indeed, decidedly saturnine, developing in a short time to a full slate color. Surprised at this unprecedented result, the usual precautions having been taken as to temperature, etc., the lard was suspected, and, on examination, was found to contain a large proportion of lime. Some time after, being in conversation with a lard-renderer, a hint was dropped as to the relation of lime to color, when the information was confidentially imparted that a common practice among lard dealers was to mix from two to five per cent. of milk of lime with the melted lard. A

saponaceous compound is formed, which is not only pearly white, but will allow of the stirring in, during cooling, of 25 per cent. of water. So much for appearances.—*Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*.

HYPOPHOSPHITE OF POTASS., IN CHRONIC BRONCHITIS—Dr. JNO. C. THOROWOOD, in a paper upon the "medicinal use of phosphorus and its compounds," speaks favorably of the hypophosphite of potash in chronic bronchitis. In the case of a patient under his care suffering with obstinate chronic bronchitis, with thick foetid expectoration and tendency to congestion of the lungs, 5 grains of the hypophosphite of potash in camphor water, effected a complete cure without any other medication whatever. To test the effect of the treatment, he stopped the medicine during one week, and the effect was a marked increase of cough and thick foetid expectoration; on returning to the mixture these symptoms were entirely removed and the patient was dismissed, cured. In other cases of chronic bronchitis, remaining after the subsidence of an acute attack of the disease, and not, as a rule, complicated by the presence of emphysema of the lung, he has given the hypophosphite of potash in camphor water, with much advantage. The diagnosis between chronic bronchitis and phthisis should be accurately determined, as great mischief results from its incautious administration to persons affected with tubercular deposit in the lungs—causing rapid softening, and in many instances speedy death.—*The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*, November, 1871.

BROMIDE OF METHYL.—In 1867-8 I made some researches with bromide of ethyl, CH_3Br , a gas made by mixing at a low temperature fifty parts of bromine, two hundred of methylic alcohol, and seven of phosphorus. By using cold the ether can be distilled over as a fluid, but it boils at 55° Fahr., and is therefore at ordinary temperature a gas. Its vapor density is 48. Bromide of methyl, like bromide of ethyl, is an anæsthetic equally effective as the latter, and sharing in all its faults.

As a matter of physiological rather than of practical interest I have recorded these facts respecting the bromides of ethyl and methyl; but there is another point in which they may be considered, and which is of direct practical worth. They are both powerful deodorizers and destructives of decomposing organic matter; and as they are from their volatility capable of being conveyed in fluid state of subdivision, they might be employed with advantage in many forms of disease.—*Echo Medical et Pharmaceutique Belge*.—*The Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*.

TINCTURE ERIGERON CANADENSE IN HEMORRHAGE.—D. J. F. GARRETSON says:—"In any ordinary hemorrhage, where something besides a local means seems necessary for its arrestation, 'Tinct. Erigeron Can.' given in single drop doses each minute, will be found very reliable. To give it in larger quantities than this, or more frequently, seems to defeat the end. In epistaxis, or the internal hemorrhage, if not too severe, it is very useful, and seldom fails. The erigeron grown in Rhode Island, near the sea-coast, seems to possess the most virtues."—*Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*, Nov., 1871.

ELIXIR CHLOROFORM.—USEFUL IN COLIC.—

R Chloroform.

Tinct. Opii.

Tinct. Camphoræ.

Spir. Ammon. Arom..... ää. oz. iss.

Oil Cinnamon..... gtt. xx.

Brandy..... oz. ij. M.

Sig.—Half a fluid dram, more or less.—*American Eclectic Medical Journal*.—*Druggists' Circular and Chemical Gazette*, Nov. 1871.

Editorial.

***Dr. Wells' New Steam Disinfecting Fumigator.
Interesting Experiment at Bellevue Hospital.***

We are under obligations to Dr. Henry M. Wells, of the U. S. Navy for his very interesting letter referring to an experiment at the Bellevue Hospital, New York, with his "Steam Disinfecting Fumigator," an instrument which is admirably adapted for use in Asylums, Hospitals and Vessels, where deodorizing and disinfecting are necessary.

Dr. Wells' long experience as Surgeon in the Navy, has shown him the great necessity for some simple machine for atomizing and volatilizing deodorizers and disinfectants, so as to diffuse them thoroughly in any apartment, where poisonous and infectious odors may exist, and in many instances, such as the holds of ships, disinfectant agents cannot be so well applied in any other way.

In using "Bromo-Chloralum" the effect, even in dispelling the foul odor of Sulphuretted Hydrogen, has been fully demonstrated, and we do not hesitate to recommend the Fumigator for general use in Public Institutions where steam is employed, and although but recently introduced, the machine (which weighs only 12 lbs.) has been received with great favor, and its formal adoption at the Bellevue Hospital, is a sufficient recommendation of its usefulness and value.

NEW YORK, December 23, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

Gentlemen—In making the second experiment with my "Steam Disinfecting Fumigator," at the Bellevue Hospital to-day, it was proposed to use the Bromo-Chloralum for the purpose of deodorizing the large clothes room where are deposited the clothes of some 600 to 800 patients. In spite of the best attention to cleanliness in this as in all other apartments of the Hospital, there is necessarily more or less odor emitted from so large a quantity of old clothing taken from the poorer class of patients when they are admitted to the Hospital.

Previous to commencing the experiment, at my suggestion, Mr. Rice, the chemist, brought in an apparatus for generating Sulphuretted Hydrogen, and the room was filled with this intense odor, in addition to what existed before. The room being in two sections, we first placed the Fumigator in the centre of one section, and commenced atomizing with Bromo-Chloralum diluted one part to six parts of water.

The effect was to change the atmosphere almost instantaneously, and in a few minutes remove all the odor of the Sulphuretted Hydrogen, as well as all other odors in the premises. We then made the same experiment in the other section of the room and with the same satisfactory results, rendering the whole atmosphere, as attested by all present, perfectly pure and free from any disagreeable smell. Dr. Gouley, Professor of Surgery in the University of New York, Mr. Rice, chemist of Bellevue Hospital and others present, expressed their entire satisfaction at the results.

I have given these details, as they will be interesting to you and the Profession generally, not only as demonstrating the power of Bromo-Chloralum over the foulest odors, but the superior facilities afforded by the "Steam Disinfecting Fumigator," for the immediate and complete diffusion of the disinfecting agent used, thereby promoting the rapid removal of impure and poisonous odors.

Very respectfully yours,

H. M. WELLS, M. D.

BROMO-CHLORALUM.***In Fetid Discharges from the Female Genital Organs.***

Mrs. —, of delicate constitution, gave birth to a premature foetus; subsequent to which an exhausting and very fetid discharge from the genitals confined her to the bed for ten weeks. The atmosphere of her room, notwithstanding the most vigilant efforts to ventilation and cleanliness, was extremely offensive. From constantly inhaling so much impurity, the patient was afflicted with anorexy, nausea, and every morning with emesis. This train of symptoms having continued so long, caused marked anæmia, alarming exhaustion, and a somewhat doubtful prognosis. Having been summoned to visit the patient under these circumstances, I directed quinine and iron three times a day, fermented wine of wild cherry before each meal, and an injection of Bromo-Chloralum, diluted one part to sixteen parts of water, for the vagina morning and evening. The result was most gratifying to the patient and her attendants. The atmosphere of the room was perfectly free from any unpleasant odor after the use of the injections of the Bromo-Chloralum, and the vaginal discharge notably diminished. After a few visits, I dismissed the patient as convalescent, with directions to continue the prescription for a week or two as circumstances might indicate.

A more prompt response than was manifest from the use of Bromo-Chloralum in this instance, I never witnessed from any medical agent. I think this remedy more inservient to restore similar cases than any other agent in the catalogue of *Materia Medica*. J. B.

ED. JOURNAL MATERIA MEDICA.

PEEKSKILL, Dec. 13th, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

I have just been using your New Disinfectant *Bromo-Chloralum*, as a *Deodorizer* in a case of large cancerous ulcer invading a large portion of the face and jaws, where the odor was so offensive and provoking as to fill the whole house and prevent the friends of the patient (an old lady of above 70 years of age) from visiting her.

The odor also sickened the patient herself and prevented her from taking nourishment. In short, she was a nuisance to herself and all around her.

Thinking it a good case for your deodorizer, I directed her son to wet napkins in a dilution of it, one part to ten of water, and hang in the room in the vicinity of the patient, changing every hour or two. On

doing so the smell before so offensive was entirely removed; the atmosphere of the room and the house became as sweet and pleasant, as that out doors. It is now more than a week since it was commenced, and although it has not been applied to the cancerous sore, no disagreeable smell has been perceived in the room or the house, and the relief to the family, and patient herself is beyond description.

I hope other practitioners will try it in similar cases, and think there can be no doubt they will find it equally effectual.

Yours truly

CHARLES A. LEE, M. D.

IOWA HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE, AT MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA.

December 12, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

Gentlemen—I have made some careful observations of the effect of the Bromo-Chloralum you kindly sent to me, and have been much pleased with it. It has proved [very effective in removing] the odors from rooms that have been defiled by unclean patients, without leaving any odor of its own, which is such a serious objection to most other disinfectants. It is also useful in sick rooms, and in the chamber utensils of sleeping rooms, or any place where there is any defect or want of active ventilation.

It has also proved effective here in preventing decomposition, and preserving a corpse beyond the time they can ordinarily be kept, even in cool weather. Two or three folds of cloth laid over the face, or any part of the body, and kept moist, will prevent any noticeable change for several days, and preserves the features in a remarkable manner.

Although I have not found it necessary to try it, I should expect that, if injected into the cavities of the body it would prevent decomposition for a long time.

Very respectfully,

MARK RANNEY, M. D., Supt.

Bromo-Chloralum in Small Pox.

APOLLO, ARMSTRONG Co., PENN., Nov. 25, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co., New Lebanon, N. Y.:

Gentlemen,—I have faithfully tried the Bromo-Chloralum and Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound, which you were kind enough to send me, and I must say they are both *fully equal* to your recommendation. Incidentally I may mention that I have used the Bromo-

Chloralum in disinfecting the rooms of some *small pox* patients, where it answered a most admirable purpose, and I am of opinion that it materially aided in preventing the spread of the disease. But two cases of this disease have occurred in my practice this season. The first of these was an importation from our neighboring city of Pittsburgh. The only one that contracted the disease from him was his brother, who was not and *would not be vaccinated*. The rooms of both these patients were disinfected with the Bromo-Chloralum, and its effects were so marked as to excite the surprise and admiration of the relatives of these patients, who witnessed its use. The loathsome emanations from the patients were so far subdued as to render the task of nursing them comparatively easy.

In regard to the Iodo-Bromide of Calcium Compound, I will say, as far as I have tried it, it seems to be *all* that we could desire. I will only give the outlines of *one* case out of several of a similar kind that I have treated with this remedy.

Robert J—, aged 26,—English,—came to me for treatment, Sept. 15, with scrofulous swelling and ulceration of the cervical, lymphatic glands, of 18 months' standing. Two of these glands were discharging freely, characteristic scrofulous pus, and some four others were much swollen, two of them seemingly just ready to break down, which they afterwards did. His history showed the disease to be hereditary. His general health was completely broken down, so that he could not follow his usual occupation, that of a sheet roller. He was placed on the following medicine:

R—Elix. Iodo-Brom. Cal. Comp., (Tilden's.)

Fluid Ext. Sarsap.,—aa.,..... ʒ iii.

Sig.—Dessert spoonful 3 times daily.

To the glands he applied ointment of Iodide of Cadmium. He was also directed to take as much out-door exercise as possible, and live on a nutritious diet, avoiding alcoholic stimulants. The first ten days he did not show any signs of improvement, but from that time on he has improved steadily, continuing the use of the medicine, as originally prescribed, with but few intermissions. He may now be considered cured,—the ulceration having healed and the enlargement entirely gone. He has resumed work, but will continue using the medicine as a precautionary measure. In closing I may add that he had been treated during the entire 18 months before coming to me by some able physicians.

With much respect, yours truly,

WM. B. ANSLEY, M. D.

Editorial Office Chicago Medical Journal, 503 Michigan Avenue.

DR. J. ADAMS ALLEN, Editor and Proprietor.

CHICAGO, Nov. 24th, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

I take pleasure in commending after frequent observations of its effects, your preparation of *Bromo-Chloralum*, as an exceedingly efficient and pleasant disinfectant and deodorizing agent.

It is entirely devoid of odor or of irritant effects, so that it can be freely used in residences, hotels, etc., at the same time it is very useful as a local application in many cases of wounds, etc., when, from causes readily appreciated by physicians, the solution of Carbolic Acid proves injurious.

I remain with high respect,

Yours &c.

J. ADAMS ALLEN, M. D.

[Extract from Letter Received from G. W. GAINES, M. D., of Franklin, Simpson Co., Kentucky,]

"I have been using your *Bromo-Chloralum* in Cancer of the mouth, and chronic tonsillitis, and find it a most valuable palliative in one, and curative in the other."

[Extract from Letter Received from S. INGRAHAM, M. D., of Walworth, Wayne Co. N. Y.]

"I received your samples of Iodo Bromide Calcium Compound, and *Bromo-Chloralum*. In a case of Cancer, the first named is acting like magic. The other is all you recommend it to be."

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 9th, 1871.

Messrs. TILDEN & Co.:

Having some months ago, received a sample bottle of your "Ferrated Wine of Wild Cherry," with a request for an opinion, I would state that having prescribed it in several cases, I have reason to recommend it as a pleasant and efficient Tonic, (especially in my experience of it) in cases of dyspepsia, anæmia and nervous affections accompanied with debility; occurring in middle and advanced life.

I have no hesitation in recommending it, as an elegant and efficient preparation, where tonic and sedative remedies are requested.

Very respectfully,

JOHN L. BURTT, M. D.

Correspondents will oblige us by writing plainly their *Names, Town, County and State*. We are frequently unable to answer letters because these are omitted.

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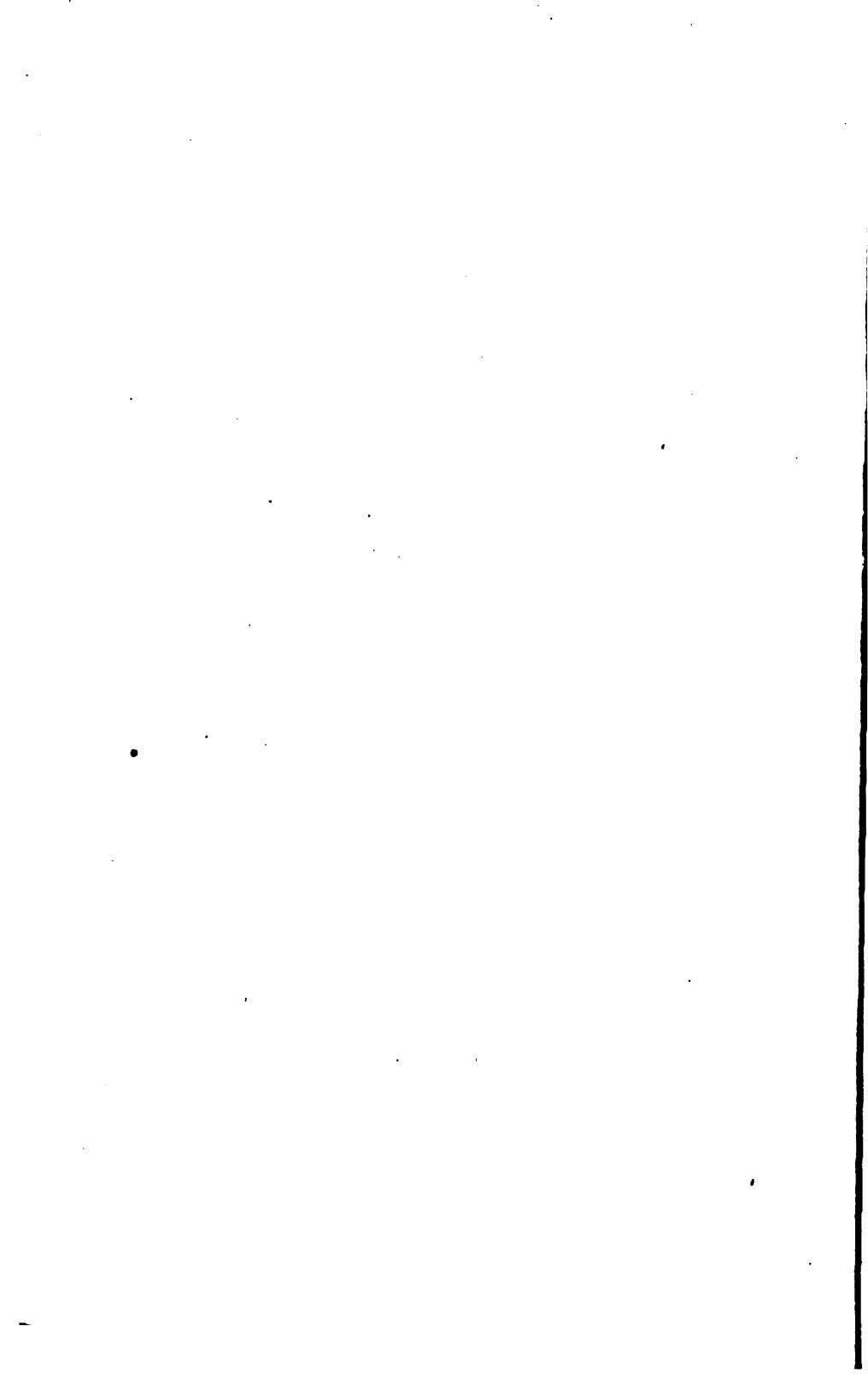
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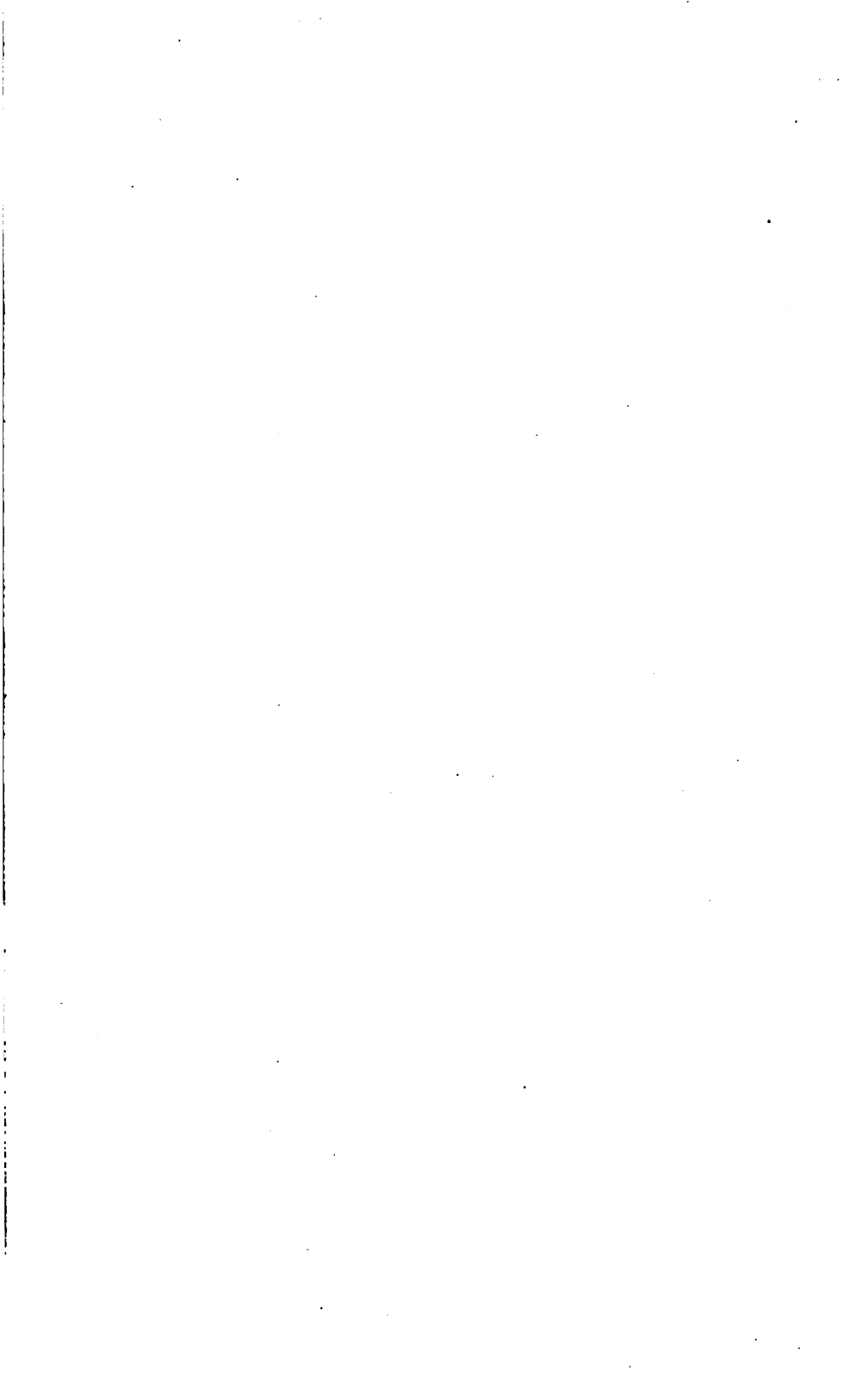
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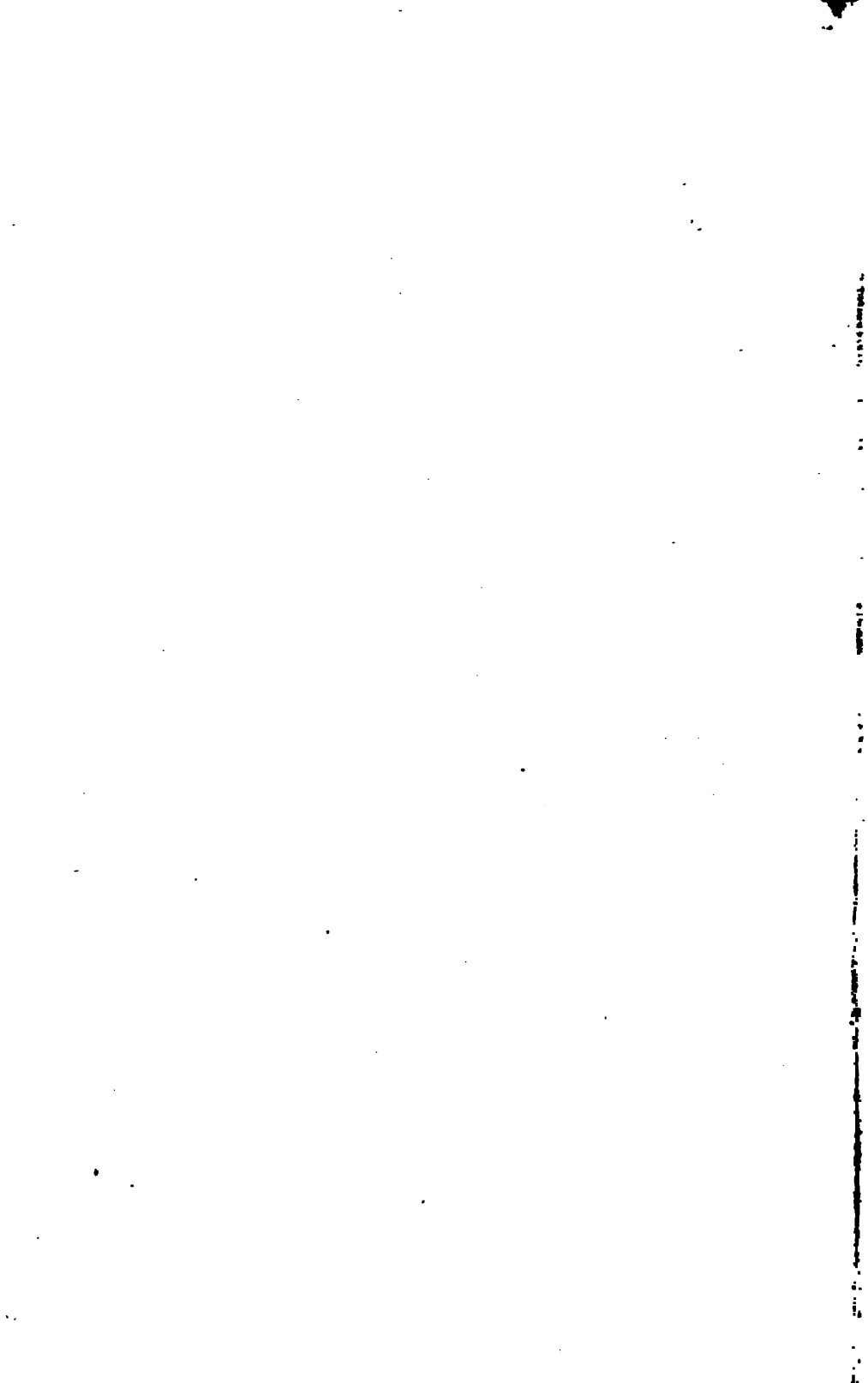
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